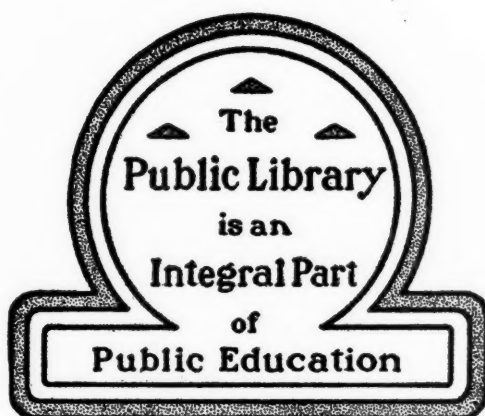


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March, 1909

No. 3

Public Libraries



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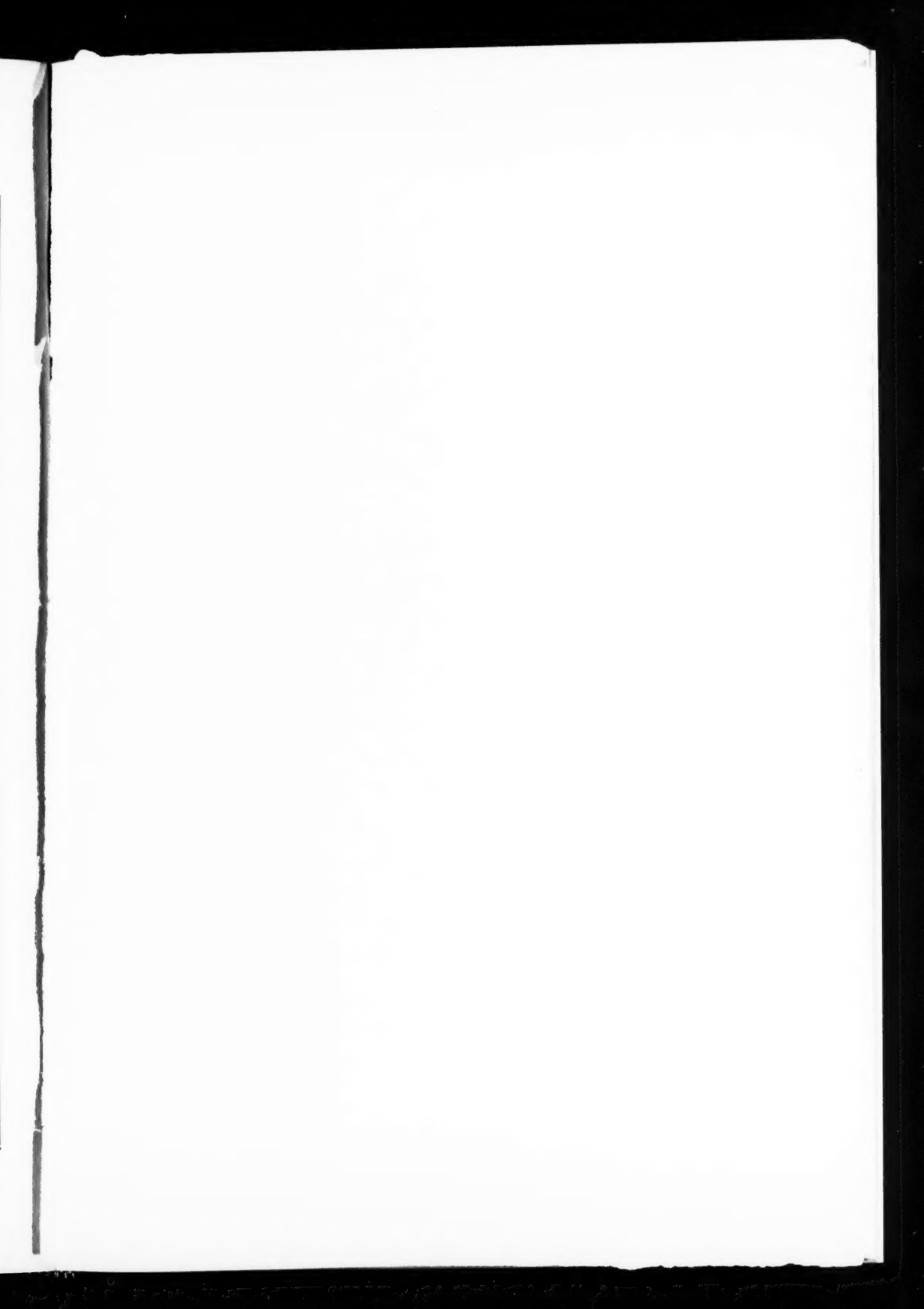
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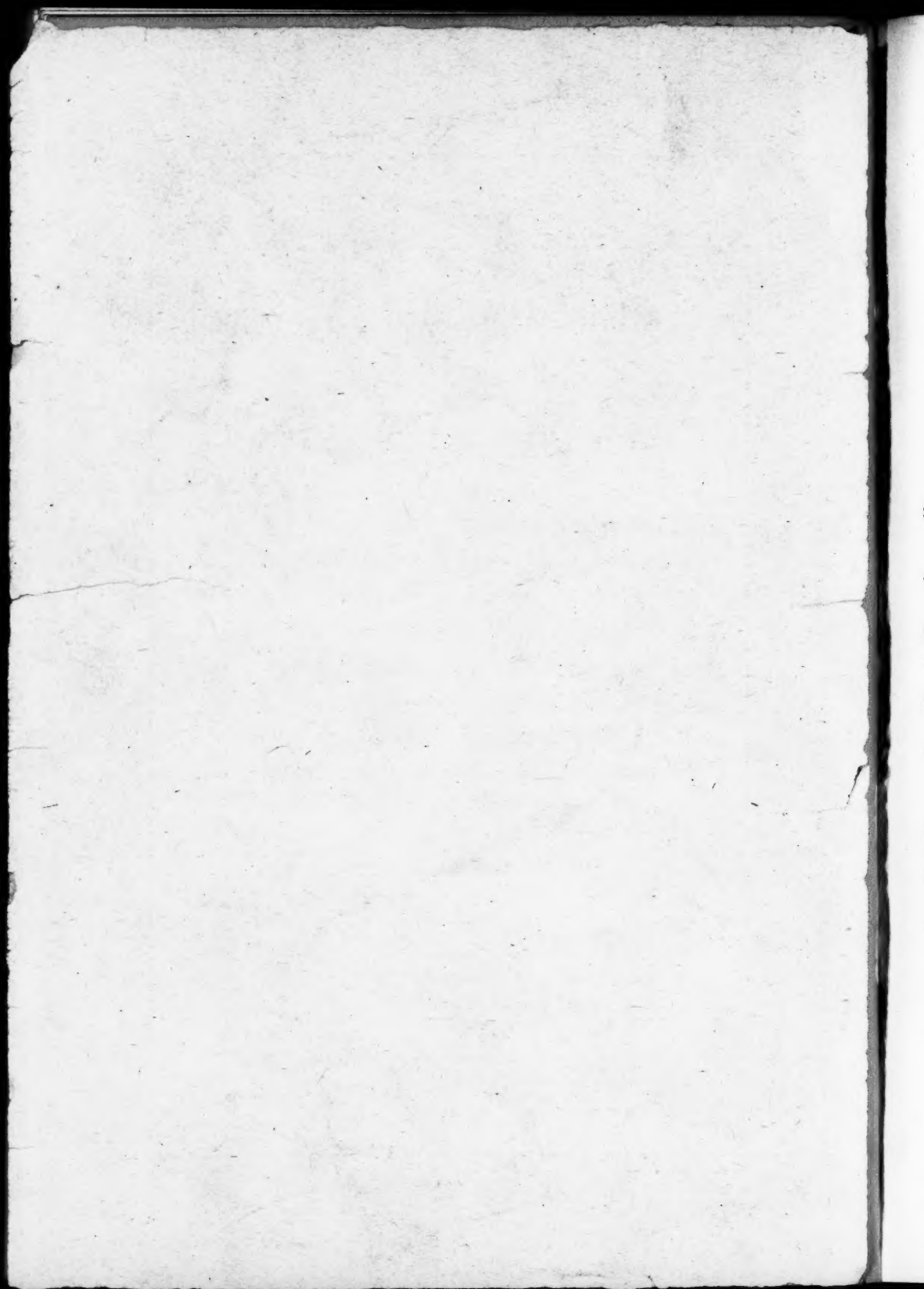
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Public Libraries

A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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No. 3

Some Cardinal Principles of a Librarian's Work*

Sam Walter Foss, librarian, Somerville, Mass.

The first great cardinal virtues of a librarian should be toleration and enthusiasm. These are qualities that are not easily combined, for a man who is tolerant is usually not enthusiastic, and a man who is enthusiastic is seldom tolerant. A man who combines these two qualities must be lymphatic and nervous at the same time—a kind of hot cake of ice. But we put lemons into lemonade to make it sour and put sugar into the same lemonade to make it sweet. So we put toleration into a librarian to make him judicial, and we put enthusiasm into him to make him human.

As a librarian a man should be as tolerant as charity, which "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." As a man, and outside his library building, he may have his own beliefs, his own tastes, his own fads and his own orthodoxes and heterodoxes. He may be a Baptist with Quaker antecedents and an Episcopal temperament; he may inwardly despise the old masters and see nothing in Shakespeare and know nothing of Kant. But as a librarian he says nothing of these things, out loud. As a librarian he is both Greek and Barbarian, Jew and Gentile, realist and romanticist, aristocrat and democrat, theosophist, secularist, orthodox, liberal, populist and patrician. He is all things to all men—and all men are the same thing to him. He is, as it were, the janitor of an amphi-

theater where warring creeds, beliefs and tastes contend like gladiators. He champions none and antagonizes none, but simply keeps his amphitheater in good repair and takes a sportsman's delight in seeing the fight go on. He loves all ideas—even when he despises them and disbelieves in them—for he knows that the ferments and chemic reactions of ideas keep the old world from growing moldy and mildewed and effete. Let him attain to absolute intellectual hospitality—if he can. A narrow man in a library—a bigot, a partisan or a crank—is a positive curse to any community that hires him. He keeps his town behind in the great intellectual procession that is moving on with a swinging stride toward something better. He is a discord in the world-tune. He is out of step with the new music—the music that is going to make the twentieth century resonant among the centuries; the music of the march of men all stubbornly holding to their own ideas and persistently developing their own personalities, but marching together in brotherhood, harmony and toleration. Let us not tolerate an intolerant man as a librarian. If such a man should become a librarian it would be money in the pocket of his community to double his salary on condition that he resign.

The librarian today should be a good mixer. The reason why Shakespeare interests all men is because all men interested Shakespeare. The tolerant librarian I am trying to portray will circulate with the long-heads and the pun-dits, and also with the flatheads and the triflers. All human interests are his interests. The canals on Mars and the fall

*Read before Massachusetts library club, June 5, 1908.

style of bonnets both supply food for his omniverous hunger. He is a man who supplies men with intellectual victuals; and he doesn't know his trade if he doesn't know the taste of all kinds of victuals himself. The supple intellect that sympathizes with all tastes; the rubberneck that stretches itself with ease into all the hubbub of affairs about it; the elastic taste that finds some satisfaction and sanction in all the schools of thought; these are what the modern-spirited librarian will at least affect, if he cannot obtain. If the man is tolerant at the inner core he has the first prime requisite of librarianship. He is ready to stand in his library, as at the threshold of a wayside inn, and welcome all his guests with an equal smile. And when he has welcomed them he should break out with the measles of enthusiasm and give them all his disease. By the exercise of his toleration he should get them all in, and then by the contagion of his enthusiasm he should make it welcome and pleasant for them. Enthusiasm in a library would once have been considered as much out of place as a stove in an icehouse. But the modern library is not a refrigerator. It is not enough to hand out books, we should let out a heart-throb with each book.

Well, now that we have our librarian perfectly tolerant and perfectly enthusiastic, what does he need next? He needs a large appropriation. It is easier for a librarian to be perfect himself than it is for him to get an adequate appropriation from an imperfect and unappreciative city government. Yet the librarian should set himself the task of getting a large appropriation. He should make this a part of his personal business. As a rule the majority of the city government know nothing about the public library, and, in their hearts within their hearts, they care nothing about it. The librarian should learn to love the mayor and all the members of the board of aldermen. If he is in a town, let him or her love the selectmen. But shall he become a politician and use the politician's

arts? No, indeed. But let him become as wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove. Any man, especially the supremely tolerant man we are describing, can get acquainted with any other man. Any librarian ought to be able to get acquainted with any alderman, and after he is acquainted he can behave prettily and be agreeable; and it is much more easy to give liberal appropriations to an agreeable librarian than to a disagreeable one, to a visible rather than to an invisible one. Let the librarian see to it that he is not an absentee among the city officials. Let not the pathway between the city hall and the library become overgrown with grass. After this tolerant librarian has become acquainted with all the members of his city government, let him be agreeable. This will be easy. In fact, it will be a thing he cannot help—because he is absolutely tolerant. He should never pester the city fathers with reiterated requests for more funds, but he should happen about at critical times when the financial budget is under discussion and look anxious. "Do not marry for money, but go where money is." Do not ask the official holders of the public purse for cash, but keep near them in every time of trouble. An adequate appropriation is an indispensable requisite in running a library, and a librarian should make it the paramount object of his life to get it.

A librarian's attitude toward his trustees should be much the same as his attitude toward the city officials. The trustee system is not the best system in the world, as all good trustees know themselves. In most instances the trustees are the governing board of the library. But nine men cannot govern a library. They cannot govern anything. It is good arithmetic to assert that nine governors can do nine times less governing than one governor. A public library to be managed efficiently must be managed by a one-man-power—and that one man ought to be the librarian. This view prevails in all boards of public library trustees in proportion to their efficiency;

and one of the cardinal principles of a good librarian should be to make this view prevail in his own board. This will involve a delicacy of management that will test our tolerant librarian to the utmost. I have heard it maintained that the ability to manage a board of trustees is the first requisite of librarianship. Rules for managing trustees have not as yet been set down in any book, for the reason that the only men who are capable of formulating these rules have, for obvious reasons, been afraid to publish them. Perhaps, however, my official life may be spared if I throw out one vague and suggestive idea: Let the librarian in his relation to his trustees yield his personal preferences on many minor points of management for the sake of carrying out his own broad general scheme. Most disagreements between men are over little things so infinitesimal that if they were not magnified they would be invisible. But do not get into a quarrel over either a big or a little thing. In any fight both sides always get the worst of it. Do not argue overmuch with a trustee. Agree with him while he is in the way as frequently as your conscience will permit, and, if he is found hopeless and unmalleable, put in missionary work among the other trustees and they will outvote him.

Our tolerant librarian now having brought the city government and his own trustees under subjection, may perhaps find time to attend to his legitimate duties. What is his first great work? To get good books and then get them read. Now most librarians get good books, and that part of our subject may be dismissed. But most librarians do not get them read. The masculine half of the population in most localities, as a body, does not use the public library. There has been a fear expressed in some quarters that the public library is becoming feminized. This usually means that there is danger that the masculine element does not predominate sufficiently upon library staffs. But the masculine element is woefully small among library

patrons. I am tempted to infer that the males of this epoch are relatively non-intellectual. The intellectual wife and the practical husband are a much more frequent phenomenon than the intellectual husband and the practical wife. More women go to church than men; more go to concerts and lectures; more go to clubs; more go to symphonies and more go to public libraries. I am told that the only gathering where men predominate over women is at a prize fight. At any rate man is in as small a ratio to woman in a public library as he is in a Monday bargain sale. His lack has indeed begun to be lamented in public libraries almost as vociferously as it is lamented at summer resorts. We have piped unto him, but he will not dance; we have bobbed for him with all kinds of bait, but he is an indifferent fish who will not bite. Now it is not the masculine weaklings and mollycoddles who are absentees from the public library. It is the hard-headed, dynamic, successful men—men with red corpuscles in their blood, and phosphorus in their brains, and money in their clothes. This kind of man, I fear, has become a newspaper drunkard and no other intellectual tippie appeals to his taste. I am something of a newspaper tippler myself and profoundly believe in newspapers; but a man who gives up books entirely for daily newspapers is not wise. Man is rapidly becoming a bookless animal; but if the librarian only knew how to do it, he might introduce him to a wide intellectual domain of which he has never dreamed. We need man in the public library to take away our reproach. We need him to take away the reproach of excessive novel reading—a reproach to which the taxpayers, who are largely masculine, are beginning to make us sensitive. Women come to public libraries much more than men, and children come much more than women, but nobody comes enough. The general public does not patronize the library except to a very limited extent. My own library, in a city of 70,000 inhabitants, gives out

something above 400,000 books a year. This is an average of about five and five-sevenths of a book to each member of our population. There was a time that I rather exulted in this record. But after a little examination my exultation has been modified. Each member of the population in our city reads five and five-sevenths of a book from the public library during the entire year—say, two books in the spring, two books in the summer, three books in the fall and five-sevenths of a book in the winter. Really is this a record to be proud of? And of course I know that it is only a small proportion of our population that takes out all the 400,000 books. Our registration number at present is 24,201. Certainly not over 20,000 of these are actual borrowers. That means that at least 50,000 of our 70,000 population do not visit the library at all. Only two-sevenths of our people use the library. Assuredly this is a bad showing—and it is a good deal worse in some places; it is far worse in most places. It has long seemed to me that the great imperative, overtopping problem that confronts the public library today is a larger circulation. Get your people to read the books they have paid for, is the librarian's first and great commandment.

But how shall we do it? Shall we make it compulsory to go to the public library as it is compulsory to go to the public schools? We cannot under the constitution make it compulsory, but there is nothing in our public statutes that forbids us making it pleasant. I have seen libraries where it looked as if the librarian was under heavy bonds to make his library just as disagreeable to his patrons as possible. It is the tendency of the small-minded man, when placed in a position of authority, to grow into a tyrant. We read about the tyrants of the Roman Empire and regard them as monsters unspeakable. But they were simply carrying out, on a large and extensive scale, the same tendencies that abide in all thin and vacuous men. They made themselves monsters through the

operation of the same law that makes librarians martinets. The martinet and the fuddy-duddy librarian, if he had been a Roman emperor, might have been a Caligula or a Domitian; and Nero and Commodus, if they had been librarians, would have been martinets and fuddy-duddies. Shakespeare, as usual, knew his business when he said:

Man, proud man
Clothed in a little brief authority,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven
As makes the angels weep.

So one of the cardinal principles that should govern the librarian should be the determination to keep down the cardinal tendency to tyranny that asserts itself more or less in all men placed in authority. Why not plainly show men and women that you love them rather than that you despise them. Take as much pains to be pleasant to people as you do to catalog your books correctly and to keep your account straight. Get acquainted with as many people as you can, and every one you get acquainted with like—if it breaks your heart. Count each acquaintance as worth a dollar to you, and then try to become a millionaire. Get everybody that comes to the library so pleased with himself that he will become a missionary and bring in all his neighbors.

Don't stay in the library all the time yourself and stagnate in the musty atmosphere of your dead books. Be a public and not a private man. Get out and feel the dynamic thrill that comes from contact with live men. The club, the exchange, the street, the philanthropic and economic organizations that are feeling out for the betterment of mankind are the places where the librarian should be found frequently. He should be the best known man or woman in the city. A dollar bill that never circulates is not worth as much as a copper cent that keeps moving. Nearly every librarian ought to double the circulation of his books and treble the circulation of himself. In other words, the librarian ought to meekly and modestly assume the in-

intellectual leadership in his community. He is certainly the logical man for the intellectual leader. He is the custodian of the intellectual treasures of his town; he is the adviser of its scholars, the teacher of its teachers and the keeper of the keys of the vaults of knowledge. The intellectual leadership has passed away, to some extent, from the clergy. The other learned professions—doctors, lawyers and teachers—are so circumscribed by their specialties that they cannot, unless they are very great, become the tolerant and catholic intellectual latitudinarians that we look for in the truly unbiased, educated man. This is the librarian's modern opportunity. Let him be the intellectual file-leader of his community. Let him grow big enough to fill the great place it is his duty to assume.

The Measure of Man

It is not uncommon to describe the successes of men who achieve greatness as being due to good fortune, to chance opportunity, to circumstances under which any other man of average intelligence and average energy would have been able to gain as much. By such occasional glimpses as this the fatuity of such a philosophy is revealed. Perhaps it is true that sometimes Fortune, in one of her curious freaks, lays hold of a man who has done little or nothing to deserve it, and bears him upward and onward to heights which he lacked the strength or the courage to win alone; perhaps there are men who by earnest toil have fitted themselves for opportunities which have not come, and which never are to come. But no man has a right to expect the former experience, and no man ought to permit himself to fear the latter. It is safe to expect that opportunity will come to those who are fit for it, and in the long run one who has risen by accident is correctly measured by his fellow men and he often knows the truth himself.—*Boston Transcript*.

Who's Who in the Library*

J. Lyon Woodruff, Librarian, Public Library,
East St. Louis, Ill.

The question to be considered is a live and vital issue in many of the libraries of today, and upon its proper solution depends much of their future success and development. I make no pretensions to being an authoritative critic or adviser concerning it, nor can I be considered in the light of a disinterested student or spectator. My viewpoint is that of the executive officer of an important business who has had to deal with many intricate and vexations problems arising from the peculiar existing relationship between a kaléidoscopic, nonprofessional board of directors, on the one hand, and an experienced manager on the other; and my conclusions are based on the results of my own experience in a field where the library is just beginning to be recognized as one of the educational centers of the community.

Who's who in the library? The director, or the librarian, or both? And if the latter (and I shall immediately allay any apprehension that may have arisen in your minds concerning any radicalistic tendencies in me by stating that this shall be my position in all that I have to say), what is the legitimate sphere wherein the activities of each may be exerted?

The question that produces the most friction between directors and librarians is probably that relating to the selection and purchase of books and periodicals. The librarian, because of his knowledge and experience, feels that he is better qualified to determine and supply the needs of the library than any other person, while the directors, with an eye to the responsibilities attached to their positions, and possibly also with a desire to see some of their long cherished personal inclinations gratified, often arrogate to themselves the entire handling of this important work. Both have much of justice and right on their side in the

*Read before Illinois library association, at Galesburg, Oct. 13, 1908.

contention. How to eliminate the friction and produce harmony of action is the problem confronting us. I believe some plan such as the following would be found to work well in practice.

1. The function of the board of directors concerning the selection and purchase of books and periodicals should be:

a) To define the general policy of the library concerning their character and kind.

That is to say, the board should lay down certain rules in regard to the purchase of books of a controversial character, books of questionable moral tendencies, books relating to the professions (such as medical works), rare books valuable only for their antiquity, and books in expensive bindings.

b) To fix the amount to be expended.

In the smaller libraries this would become necessary only once a year and be included in the annual budget, while in the larger libraries a quarterly budget, submitted by the proper committee and approved by the board, would probably serve better the interests of the library.

c) To determine the policy to be pursued concerning dealers.

Shall the library become the patron of one jobber exclusively, or shall lists be submitted to various publishers for quotations? Shall local dealers, regardless of ability to execute orders promptly and efficiently, be considered for purely sentimental reasons? Shall the library indulge in bargain hunting to any large extent? Shall subscription agents be given any consideration? All these are questions that might properly be thrashed out by the board and fixed by a declaration of policy.

d) To approve special and extraordinary purchases.

Purchases arising from the exigencies of the occasion; purchases requiring an unusual expenditure of money; large purchases of any one class or kind of books should all be submitted first to the board for approval, even though they might be regarded as included in the provisions of the general policy.

2. The librarian, as the executive officer of the board, should:

a) Be granted the utmost freedom in the carrying out of the general policy.

This having once been fixed and published, the supervision of the board should not extend beyond the limits necessary to determine whether the librarian is guilty of violating its principles. He should not be harassed and embarrassed by recurrent and unnecessary additional rules and curtailment of privileges, but should be held strictly responsible for the literal observance of the general policy.

b) Be considered an authority on the needs of the library.

His knowledge of the library's resources and the demands made upon it by its patrons should render his judgment as final whenever the question of the adaptability of certain works to the needs of the library arises. He should be impressed with the understanding that the board will credit him with honesty of purpose in whatever opinion he may thus express, and that the personal equation will be an unconsidered factor in any controversy that may arise concerning it.

c) Exercise unrestricted censorship.

The general policy concerning works of a debatable character having been determined, books falling under suspicion should be referred to him for investigation, and his conclusions should be considered as final concerning them. He should neither be coerced nor influenced in any manner, but the attitude of the board should be merely that of recommendation and advice, such as would be proper from any library patron.

d) Be the purchasing agent of the board.

Having acquired, by thorough investigation and experience, a comprehensive knowledge of the merits and faults of the various available dealers, and having determined on the one or more to whom the library's patronage should be given, it should be his privilege to act independently in the placing of all orders for

books and periodicals. Libraries, as a rule, find it to their advantage to deal with one or two reliable jobbers, and the best results are obtained from dealers who understand that the continuance of their business relations with the library is dependent entirely on satisfactory service. A librarian shorn of the power to sever the library's business connections with a firm for cause loses much of the influence and respect due the purchaser from the dealer and finds that comparatively little attention is given to his complaints and remonstrances.

The second point of contact wherein friction often occurs between the directors and the librarian is in the planning and execution of administrative details. Given a librarian with an experimental knowledge, on the one hand, and nine business men whose entire stock of information concerning library matters is probably derived from this same librarian, on the other, is it the part of wisdom for the board to attempt to designate the system of classification and arrangement of books, the method of charging and recording the same, the kind of catalogs to be prepared, or the manner of keeping the necessary statistical records? Would not the interests of the library be served better if the board were simply to provide that the librarian select and place in operation the most approved methods, according to his judgment and experience, and then hold him responsible for results?

The safeguarding of the library's property, for which the directors are responsible to the taxpayers, requires that certain rules concerning loan privileges should be imposed on the librarian by the board. These, however, should be flexible enough to give the librarian some discretionary powers for the meeting of possible contingencies such as arise in daily contact with an exacting, insistent public. In a word, the elimination of all unnecessary red tape should be the aim of every ambitious library, and this result can best be attained when the librarian possesses the confidence of his

board so fully as to be allowed the utmost freedom in the management of the institution which he represents in the eyes of his public.

One other detail that frequently causes contention is that relating to the printed matter of the library. Shall the same be under the supervision of the secretary or the librarian? I maintain that no secretary, be he ever so efficient, is as well qualified to plan, proof-read or supervise the printing for the library as is the librarian. All forms, blanks and regular printed supplies should therefore be provided by the librarian, and other matter of an unusual nature, such as catalogs, special lists, etc., should require nothing more than the approval of the board for their publication.

The third important question concerning the relations between directors and librarians is that involved in the appointment of employees and jurisdiction over the same. I do not believe that it is wise to leave the appointment of assistants in the hands of the librarian, subject to the approval of the board, as is done in some libraries; nor do I believe, on the other hand, that the board, without regard to the opinion or advice of the librarian, should make this function its exclusive privilege. In the first case the librarian, especially in the smaller towns where everybody knows everybody else, could not possibly escape the charge of favoritism if there happened to be a number of applicants, and in the latter case the board, after holding the librarian responsible for results, furnishes him with assistants who may possess neither temperament nor necessary qualifications for the work, but in the criticism of whom he must be exceedingly chary, because of the influence that placed them in the library. The appointment of library assistants should be neither a political nor personal privilege, but the result of the concurrent judgment of the directors and the librarian. A committee of the board, with the librarian as a voting member, should make a thorough investigation concerning the

qualifications of every applicant, said investigation to include a system of examination as to their mental and educational fitness, and the appointments should be made strictly according to the merits of each individual case.

The assignment of assistants to their respective duties, the regulation of hours of work, recreation, etc., are all matters which properly fall within the librarian's sphere of duty. His personal observation and knowledge of the staff qualify him to determine the relative fitness of each member for the different lines of library work, and there should be no question as to his right to distribute the units of the whole for which he is held responsible, according to his judgment and pleasure. Assistants, as well as all other employees, however, should be entitled to the unrestricted privilege of appeal to the board from any decision or alleged imposition by the librarian, the board being the supreme arbiter in every question concerning the discipline of the library.

Such, in brief, are some of the principal questions wherein differences often develop between the directors and the librarian.

So long as directors are removed with every fluctuating political tide or as the result of personal whim or prejudice, and so long as librarians maintain conceptions of their own superiority and knowledge so exalted as to prohibit their seeing any wisdom or purpose in the deliberations and conclusions of their directors, so long will these and similar differences continue to exist and vex us. When directors, however, shall be chosen because of their peculiar fitness for the position they are to occupy, when library boards shall become permanent rather than transitory institutions, and when librarians shall descend from their pedestals and render unto every man a just appreciation of his advice and suggestions, whether they be according to Dewey or not, then the library millennium will be at hand, and the question as to who's who in the library will be answered to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Public Documents in Small Libraries*

Harlan H. Ballard, Pittsfield, Mass.

Their minds unvexed by fluctuatin' stocks,
Our granthers set great store by public doc's,
Begged from their Congressman the ponderous tomes,

Perused the treasured volumes in their homes,

Read every speech by Webster or by Clay,
And read 'em in the good old-fashioned way.
Then in the evenin's, at the country store,
Uncorked the vials of their new-found lore,
And Democrats and Whigs exchanged their views,

And mingled argyments with village news.
But now that bosses deal out printed votes,
An' politics comes ez ready made ez coats,
When all we read is tales of greed and graft,

An' all our thinkin's done by Bryan or Taft,
The documents our fathers used to trust
Are left alone, accumulatin' dust,
Unless our wives or these wise girls of ours
Make 'em herbariums fer pressin' flowers;
My daughter, too, you may be glad to learn,
Hez made some kind o' scrap-book out o' hern.

I b'lieve taint filled with no partickler knowl-
edge;—

Mostly mementos of her days in college.
They's some keep documents to make a show,
By standin' on 'em edgewise in a row,
Prob'y all right;—you know how 'tis your-
selves;

Fer nothin' 'looks so bad as empty shelves.
Nevertheless, so fur as I kin learn,
Most folks believe they're only fit to burn,
Though thrifty huswives think the proper
caper

Is jest to sell 'em with the rags fer paper.
But yet;—hold on a bit! I'll tell you what;
There is one other use I most forgot:—
There's Congressmen, above a'l thought of
brib'ry,

Who still present their speeches to the Lib'ry;
An' libries get from many a dusty garret
Some document from them that's glad to
spare it.

So patent office and old war reports,
Old coast surveys, and old decrees of courts,

*Read before Connecticut library association,
Oct. 29, 1908.

Extinct committees, and dead boards of
health,

An ancient census of the Commonwealth,
Odd volumes of old treaties with Japan,
Reports commercial and Smithsonian;

Reports of Bureaus of Ethnology,
And Bulletins of every sort of o'ogy,

Returns of Boards of Education,

Reviews of western irrigation;

Old journals of the House and Senate,

The History of the Kuklux, when it

Threatened to o'er run the South;

Dry "Observations on the drouth;"

Views of our maritime rights, by Vindex;

All these and more, (with never an index)

Are carted round to the library door,

Cause "Dad don't want 'em any more!"

By reason of this ceaseless inundation

Our stacks are filled from attic to foundation.

Because they're gifts we dassn't throw'm
away;

And so the burden grows from day to day.

Such is the problem, fer this here Conven-
tion

To solve by all its wisdom and invention;

But pounds of cure, (though this 'twere rash
to mention)

Ain't half so good as ounces of pervention!

When folks bring stuff we hadn't orter take,

Why don't we tell 'em so fer goodness sake!

Why load our shelves with rubbish from
the tomb,

An' then complain because we're short o'
room?

But since things isn't as they'd orter be,

But as they iz, I'll give you my idee:—

When boats are fillin' fast, beyond a doubt,

The fust thing to be done, is bail 'em out;

So 'tis with dockiments:—they's wheat and
chaff;

An' ef you're sinkin', overboard with half!

To change the proverb so's our case to fit,
Discrimination is the soul of wit;

Let each one judge by what his patrons need,

What must be kept, from what he may be
freed;

What holds true records of the town or state,

What books still live, and what are out of
date.

Whether you find in volumes new or old

All dross or precious, unsuspected gold,

One certain benefit you all will gain,

You'll end your task with an enlightened
brain;

You'll know what's worthless in the rubbish
heap,

You'll know what's worthy in the books you
keep.

An' fer a help in makin' up your mind

To part with more than first you feel inclined,

Remember, that the most o' what's worth
while

Hez been reprinted in a better style.

Statistics sprinkled through a hunderd vol-
lums,

Some handbook has condensed to twenty
columns;

The small type speech that in the "Record"
lurks

Stands forth in pica in the author's works,

An' bits of science scattered here and there

Are grouped in text books with the greatest
care.

An' then there's books no sort o' use to you

Others would gladly take, an' pay for, too,

So, 'fore destroyin' anything as trash,

Try givin', tradin', or a sa'e for cash.

Here endeth lesson first, "The choice of
books,"

Next comes "their best arrangement," and
it looks

At first as if there wasn't much to say,

Except to set 'em up the usual way,

For public documents are jest the same

Ez any other books, except in name.

But I'll suggest, with all becomin' deference,

That documents is mostly good for reference;

You can't expect to circulate these tomes

Ez freely ez the tales o' Mary Holmes,

No more'n you'd find a treatis' on neuralgia

Ez popular with boys as "one by Alger."

Then, there's a law, there's been some fuss
about

That Guv'ment documents must not go out;

But whiie, I s'pose, there may be some such
rule,

We haint ob'eeged to foller it like a mule;

For even Post, who has these things in
charge,

Is willing its restrictions to enlarge:—

"Treat public documents," says Mr Post,

"Like other reference books." This clears
the coast.

We're not to circulate these books like
fiction,

But if we'd lend a man a diction-
 Ary over night or Sunday,
 If he'll return it early Monday,
 We may do a similar thing, you see,
 With a Bulletin of geology;
 Or if in a case of urgent need
 We would let a man take an encyclopæd-
 Ia, then we may lend to a studious chap
 A government topographical map;
 A word to the wise is a *verbum sap!*
 Still! most of our documents are our own,
 And were never received as a government
 loan.

These books we may catalogue as we choose
 By Dewey or Cutler, whichever we use;
 We may label and keep them apart by them-
 selves,

Or give them their place on the classified
 shelves;

But whatever catalogue system it be,
Don't drop from the catalogue final u-e!
 The third and last thing I am asked to ex-
 plain

Is how to get at what the books contain;
 Or how can we he'p the public learn
 To what particular page to turn?
 To train up a child in the way he should go,
 You must travel that way yourself, you know:
 So you'll hardly awaken desire for a book
 Upon which you have never bestowed a look.
 Among these documents neglected long
 We'll scarcely seek for poetry or song;
 But almost every human thing besides
 Within their dusty treasury abides.
 The exp'oration of our Western lands,
 The work of master minds and master hands,
 The wisest counsels for the men who toil,
 The latest novelties of seed and soil;
 The care of forests and the growth of trees,
 The low of cattle and the hum of bees,
 Our Indian tribes and all their curious ways,
 Their strange religion, and their children's
 plays,

The rich experience of our public schools,
 Why children shou'd be taught the use of
 tools,

Our public parks, the care of public roads,
 The gypsy moth, the history of toads,
 The words of statesmen, and the art of war,
 The story of the lighthouse on the bar;
 The constitution of the United States,
 The price of wheat, the present tariff rates,
 Who took the prizes at the county fair,

The names of city councilmen, and Mayor;
 The history of the nation in its prime,
 Our rivers, mountains, and our varied clime,
 All these within these documents are found.
 Besides all which in pictures they abound—
 Rare pictures here of scenes forever lost,
 There colored pictures fabulous in cost,
 Engravings of machinery and tools,
 From Cor'iss engines down to spinning mules;
 Designs of ships, and diagrams of forts,
 And plans for libraries and halls and courts.
 Just take one volume home and read it
 through,

And you will know the proper thing to do.
 You'll be so pleased before you reach the end
 You just can't help but show it to a friend,
 And when all's said there ain't no better plan
 To get the proper book to the proper man.
 I know there's Congress cards to help along,
 And Putnam'll send 'em to you fer a song.
 But as for recommendin' on 'em—pshaw!
 The most that gets 'em puts 'em in a draw,
 And there they'll stay till good old Gabriel
 comes

To rouse 'em from their dusty catacombs.
 Ef some one else makes catalogues fer me,
 I ain't agoin' to read the books, you see!
 But if I'm more'n a label on a shelf,
 I've got to find what's in 'em fer myself!
 I'd ruther show one feller from a farm
 What Riley says will do his taters harm,
 Than give ten nove's to ten city maids,
 Or give a boy some pirates' escapades.
 I'd ruther give a teacher—not a fool,—
 Mann's first report upon the public school,
 Then send her huntin' in the catalog draw,
 Or hand her out the sophistries of Shaw!
 The catlog's right and nes'ry in its place,
 But them that tries it needs redeemin' grace!
 An' jest as grammar needs a good gram-
 marian,

So ev'ry Lib'r'y needs a live librarian!
 Get a'l the indexes that you can raise,
 Get cards enough to fill up all your trays,
 Ef folks don't read, there's jest one way to
 win 'em,
 Fust know your books, then tell your friends
 what's in 'em!

Discretion of speech is more than
 eloquence, and to speak agreeably to
 him with whom we deal is more than to
 speak in good words or in good order.

Library Bookbinding*

George Stosskopf, Evanston, Ill.

The binder, better to fit himself for his vocation, should avail himself of every opportunity offered to ascertain the requirements of the librarian; the latter, in order to be able to make a judicious use of the library fund intrusted to him, should have a knowledge of the process and method of binding, the relative strength of binding materials and the value of a particular binding with reference to the wearing qualities. I invite criticism wherever experience is at variance with the views expressed by me. In the following I shall confine myself strictly to library binding, as distinguished from all forms of edition binding. I mean by edition binding the making of books from the flat sheets as they come from the press.

Upon arrival at the bindery the books are checked off by the aid of a list furnished by the librarian. The best method for books not fiction style of binding is to make out an individual slip for each book or set of books. The slip should give the author and title and directions for binding, author and title being underscored. The slips, which should be numbered consecutively, are copied on a list made out in triplicate form; one is retained by the librarian and two are given to the binder, one of which is to be returned as an itemized invoice. For fiction the individual slip may be omitted, a list giving author, title and call number being sufficient. Each volume is now given our order number, and in the case of magazines and periodicals we also ascertain whether or not they are supplied with title page and index.

The books are then in the hands of the girls who collate them. Missing pages are noted on a slip tipped in at the title page. The books are taken out of their covers, the sewing thread cut and signature separated from signature, all glue and thread being carefully removed. Here also the sheets are examined, dog-

eared pages are straightened out and all tears are patched. Where these tears run into the print they are mended with transparent paper, and others with paper harmonizing with the shade of the sheet. Full-page illustrations are hinged with a strip of tough paper, heavier plates with a muslin strip, and the first and last sections are reinforced by a muslin guard. Thus prepared the book is taken in small sections, the lip or joint produced by backing is carefully bent in the opposite direction, and is placed on an iron plate and flattened out by hammering. Next, the book is jogged up (that is, made even) at head and back and placed in the standing press in such a manner that between each half inch of book a smooth hardwood press-board is inserted, and the book left in the tightened press for about twenty-four hours. Much of the stability of the binding depends upon the pressing the book receives before sewing. Good pressing gives the book body, and such a book will keep its shape well in use. Sufficiently pressed, the book is ready for sewing.

All authorities on binding agree upon the importance of sewing. All have much to say about cords and tapes, the number of cords and the thread used in sewing, but very little about the poor stock used by the publisher of today and the latter's disregard to the running of the grain in the paper. If the grain runs across the fold the leaves are apt to break in the fold and soon fall out. This feature is not mentioned in the Report of the committee on leather for bookbinding for the Society of arts, manufactures and commerce, published 1901; nor by the Sound leather committee in their report for the Library association of the United Kingdom, 1905; nor by Cockerell and Zaehnsdorf. Dana is the only one who touches this point. In the article on paper making, page 61, in his Notes on bookbinding for libraries (1906), he says:

This gives paper a grain, along which it tears and folds more readily than across it.

*Read at Missouri Library association, Warrensburg, 1907.

This fact also is often taken advantage of in good printing.

This is the only notice I have found of this, and yet it is an evil which every binder must and does take into consideration many times during the day. If we mean to improve upon the binding, we must begin with the paper and demand of the printer as well as the binder better material and up-to-date methods. I hold it a fallacy to claim that any particular method of sewing will eliminate or even reduce to a material extent the trouble brought on by the using of a poor grade of paper running against the grain. To corroborate my statement, I have brought for your inspection a book sent by a public library to my bindery for resewing in the same cover. I wish it to be understood that I consider this a strongly bound book. It is bound by a binder who claims that his books, bound from the sheets, never need re-binding nor resewing. This book has been in use less than one year and a half. Yet because the grain runs across the fold it has broken.

Generally speaking, the binder recognizes three styles of sewing: First, the usual sewing on cords with sawmarks; second, sewing on tape or parchment strips; and, third, sewing on cords or tapes without sawmarks. The last is the older style and in our time used only on dictionaries and artistic bindings and by amateurs. Sawmarks should not be larger than the cord, for if they are glue is likely to penetrate. In the next process after sewing the method is determined by the kind of binding desired. In the case of the fiction style of binding the first and last sections are reinforced with a muslin strip. In the case of books not fiction, a book-cloth joint is tipped on. Then the strip or the joint, as the case may be, is stitched to its section.

We are now ready for the sewing bench. The cords are fastened below and above and then stretched taut. The section is brought with the back against the cords in such a manner that these

will fit into the grooves cut by the saw. The section is opened at the center. The needle is passed through the first hole at the right cut for the kettlestitch, is then brought out at the right of the first cord, is passed around this and is re-entered at the left of the same, so down to the kettlestitch at the left end, where the thread is looped to the preceding section. This is "sewing all along," and library books should be sewed in this way, and in no other, except books with very thin sections, which may be partly sewed "two on." "Sewing two on" is, as the name implies, two sections sewed on one thread from one kettlestitch to the other.

Books so badly worn that their backs must be cut off are either whipstitched or stitched into sections by a machine and then sewed in the usual way. I consider the stitching the lesser evil and by far the better method of any in use at the present time.

After the flysheets and endsheets are sewed on, the books are taken from the bench, the cord is divided, allowing about one and one-half inch of cord on each side of the book, and these ends of cord are then fanned out. The first and last sections are tipped down. The book is again jogged up at head and back and a coat of glue applied to the back. When sufficiently dried the book is trimmed. In the case of a volume out of a set, this is done according to a sample volume or a sample back. The book is now rounded on an iron plate and then placed in the backer, a press with two steel jaws; the back of the book protrudes somewhat over the steel jaws. With a hammer the sections are beaten outward from the center of the back, thus forming what we call the joint. At this time the book is provided with boards, which have been cut on the table shears to fit the size of the book.

From now on the work on the fiction and other books differs. Let us follow the latter. On these books the boards are stabbed twice about a quarter-inch from the edge opposite each cord. Some

paste is now applied to all the cords, which are then laced through the boards. The superfluous length is cut flush with the surface of the board. The lacing is now beaten down with a hammer, thus securely locking the cord. To prevent an undue elevation we groove the board rather than weaken the cords by thinning them down. The books are again pressed for five to six hours. After this the headband is glued on and a piece of super is pasted on, covering the surface between the headbands. I have found paste to be better than glue in this case, as it preserves the flexibility of the super. By means of flexible glue a piece of tough paper is applied to the back and folded back and forth, forming the spring back. In the case of raised bands, pieces of cord are pasted upon this spring back, so you can readily see that this ornament considerably impairs the wearing qualities of the binding. The leather over the elevated bands, exposed to greater wear, is already thin and weak because of the undue stretching, which tears the fibers out of their natural position. The leather corners and back are now cut and their edges nicely pared down. After being pasted the corners are laid on and turned in, and next the back stretched over the back of the book and top and bottom turned in. This accomplished, the book is left to dry. After about 12 hours the book is carefully opened and the cloth joints pasted to the covers; then either cloth or paper sides are glued on. After this the inside of the cover is lined with paper of the same kind as the flysheets. Title, author and call number are lettered in gold and the volume is at the end of its long journey through the bindery. For lettering a coat of thin pastewater is applied to the back. This, when dry, is followed by one of glair, made of the white of egg. After this is thoroughly dried, gold leaf the size of the title is laid on the leather, which has been previously dampened with a little olive oil. Each line of lettering is placed in the pallet, heated and printed on the back. When the lettering

is complete the superfluous gold is removed with a piece of crude rubber. The book is now opened, collated and examined. The opening, as done at this stage, is for the purpose of preventing the actual breaking of the binding by careless or forced opening in the hands of a reader. It is done in this fashion: The book is rested on a flat surface, with both of the covers lying down; a few sheets at a time are taken, first on one side and then on the other, and gently pressed down on the cover with the fingertips, excepting a small bunch of leaves in the center, which are not opened. After the final pressing, the title is varnished and the book is ready for delivery.

Discussions of bindery processes at librarians' conferences may help in bringing about a more intelligent coöperation between librarians and binders. Such coöperation will be sure to result in the better preservation of the book.

The Change in the Feminine Ideal*

Mrs Margaret Deland

Since the world began there have always been sporadic new women who shocked and amused. There have always been occasional women who did unusual things, the things usually left to men. But the achieving woman is not so conspicuous today; the new woman is almost ceasing to be new and a joke. She is here firmly established, and as proofs of her existence we have two undeniable facts—the prevailing discontent among women and the change in the feminine ideal.

These granted, we are face to face with sobering possibilities. The condition of woman today is full of hope. We believe in her, are proud of her, yet there is a threat with the promise. A hope always implies a menace, and with the revealing to women of the opportunities and privileges of life there comes a great danger.

*Read before Massachusetts library club, at Boston, Jan. 21, 1909.

The discontent is widespread. Take the attitude of the daughters of today. The girl who has been to college cannot settle down as did her mother content with her sheltered life. She is restless and rushes breathlessly from one so-called duty to another.

But more significant is the change in the ideal which certainly and surely is taking place in the rank and file, in the simple, honest, shy, respectable, commonplace women. Our mothers did not talk of their rights, they fulfilled them; they did not talk of reform, but practiced strength, patience, tenderness, courage, selflessness. The girls of today say that the old feminine selflessness was demoralizing; in giving their powers to their families mothers practiced an unmoral unselfishness, they grew in grace at the expense of their families. So the selflessness is going out of date.

Another conspicuous difference in the ideal is of tremendous social significance. Our mothers were unconscientious concerning the right of children not to be born. Fifty years ago emphasis was laid upon the quantity not the quality of children. Today the maternal instinct is divine enough to forbid an undesirable existence. What is creating this change? Two causes are responsible—the sense of individualism and the sense of social responsibility peculiarly evolved in the women of this generation. Each in itself is hopeful, yet each has its danger. A woman's sense of individualism may be selfish and so a threat to the family, her sense of social responsibility may be shallow and so a threat to the state.

In her expression of individualism the woman of today supplements the old-fashioned word "*duty*" by the words "*to myself*." She regards the cultivation of her own mind and soul, as duties, and the family comes secondary. So there is raised the question of the relative value to society of individual development that comes at the cost of family life.

It is only safe to exploit self when it is done, not for oneself, but for humanity. The desire to save one's own soul is full

of risk. The touchstone of education, culture, of all things must be, "Is this for myself or for others?" But the spirit of the higher education of today is, make the most of your own life, do your duty to yourself. This engenders a state of mind plainly selfish.

The threat of selfishness is obvious in another most serious expression, divorce. Divorce is a result of extreme individualism. Civilization rests on the permanence of marriage; the individual goes to the wall; but now the individual is asserting herself. "I am unhappy," is her expression, "therefore I will get a divorce and marry someone who will make me happy." The fatal defect in our present attitude toward marriage is the demand for happiness. Happiness and marriage may go together, but if the incident of happiness, love, is lost, duty—marriage—remains. If we let go of the idea of permanence, humanity will go upon the rocks. Again and again we see this belief, that happiness is the aim of marriage, leading to the divorce court. What is wrong about divorce? Nothing wrong individually, but if my happiness in remarrying lessens in any respect my brother's idea of the permanence of marriage, then will I cease. When individual happiness conflicts with the great human ideal, the right to claim such happiness is nothing to the privilege to deny it.

Although woman utters sensible protests in many social matters, her sense of social responsibility is characterized by shallowness. This is especially noticeable in her attitude toward suffrage. Does she reflect with what terrible instruments she is playing? Universal man suffrage has not proved a great success, and now women are determined to have universal woman suffrage. No suggestion of a property or educational qualification is made. The feminine logic is that all men have the suffrage; therefore must all women have it. This is one example of the lack of thoroughness with which women approach social questions. Again, women would remedy

prostitution and intemperance by closing houses of ill repute and saloons, not reflecting that this would be no remedy at all. The woman of today does not know how to wait for time and law to take their course. There is a kind of arrogance in her bustling feminine haste to make the world over. Her whole attitude toward reform is characterized by fretting impatience.

Individualism and a sense of social responsibility are the two working hands of one central heart—duty. Neither can work against the other. No one must do that which, done by all, would destroy society. When social responsibility conflicts with individualism, society must wait and individualism must learn her lesson.

We must see more largely. We must not haste, not hold back, but "trust God, see all, nor be afraid."

A. L. A. Booklist

I seem to be almost alone in my view of the purposes the librarians of this country should have in view in publishing a monthly annotated list of books. My colleagues seem quite unable to think of any beneficiaries save themselves. They ask only for a list that will help them in their special work. My thought from the very first has been that it was long since high time for the people of this country who make claims, by virtue of the positions they accept and hold, that they are able to select books for the constituencies in which they severally are, to offer out of their collective wisdom to the general public a select and annotated list of the best books for the use of that general public. I have been saying this a good many times for now a good many years, and only once in a while do I get any librarian to listen long enough even to understand what I mean!

Let me say it over once more! If we are the literary people we profess to be then we should be able to offer expert advice to the general public. The booklist ought to be the vehicle of that advice; therefore, the booklist ought to be

a thing that the general book-buyer and reader will be glad to see.

To call it the A. L. A. booklist is to hide it under a bushel—worse, it is to conceal it in the alphabet. Who is this A. L. A.? To give one bit of evidence to show that none save a few librarians know what A. L. A. means: We have classes of Normal school pupils to whom we are giving instruction in the Use of the library. They have been coming here for three months. Lately they were asked, "What is the best bookbuying guide?" First, silence; then one smiled and said, "Oh, yes! the Alla catalog!" And that's what A. L. A. meant to her!

It is time, I claim, for librarians to prove their value to the reading public at large by offering a monthly literary guide to that general reading public. If it is time, and if the booklist is the proper vehicle (and why is it not?), then I contend that it should be changed, certainly in name and quite surely in form. If changed in form and style, it would still serve as a buying guide to librarians in 90 per cent of the cases of its present actual use just as well as it does now. The more nearly it meets the needs of the librarian of the small library as a guide in buying, the more nearly would it serve the needs of the average American reader and book-buyer, and *vice versa*. If that is not true, then libraries are not wishing to learn how best to buy for their communities, but how best to buy for their own several ejects—their conceptions of their communities.

For ease in reading as well as for economy in printing the list should be printed in two columns, each page holding about three times as much as one of the present form.

If it is not for public use, as the Publishing board has insisted, but only for libraries, all the more reason for not spending our money on an expensive and unhandy form.

For a name, "Recent books" would be good—"Recent books—a selected and annotated list."

J. C. DANA.

Newark, Feb. 9, 1909.

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$4 a year
Single number	- - - - -	20 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$1.35 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post-office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1879.

Public Libraries does not appear in August and September and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

The county as a library unit—Since an early period in public library extension, there have been here and there instances where free library privileges have been supported by county taxation. But only in recent years has there been consideration of the plan to any extent. The splendid work of the Hagerstown library with its wagon libraries, the many instances of county libraries in the Middle West show an increase in library service on an economical and efficient basis. California and Iowa are considering the extension of library service along these lines this year and every consideration of the question leads to the hope of success for their efforts.

Personal indifference—In looking through the record of the year in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, there seemed to be almost a continuous complaint of librarians not answering questions, not giving attention to published notices, not reading the statement of facts in which they should be interested as live librarians. Such indifference is a serious drawback in personal equipment. This is really a weakness for which there is little excuse and indicates a lack of the sense of values. It is most important to

keep in touch with the fall stream of library events. Such contact renews interest, clarifies ideas, refreshes impressions; in short, infuses new life into daily tasks that will give more vitality to the individual and greater effectiveness to the things accomplished.

A praiseworthy uniformity—The "chronic grumbler," having been routed in most of his attacks on libraries, generally feels safe when he growls about uniformity. He certainly will find plenty of material to illustrate his complaint in the almost universal activity displayed by the average public library last month in calling attention to the centenary of Abraham Lincoln. This is particularly true as regards the libraries in the Middle West. Scores upon scores were included in the set programs prepared by municipal authorities and in the celebrations in connection with the schools and other public bodies in paying tribute to a great man and a great believer in books. This was right and fitting. But it has a significance of its own in that it is a mark of coming recognition for service rendered as a public institution that brings the library more nearly to its proper place as a part of public education to be counted with on all public occasions.

State library extension—A most gratifying activity is being carried on in a number of states throughout the country in securing a larger measure of state supervision, particularly in states which have had little or nothing along this line. Newspapers, from Florida to Idaho and from California to Rhode Island, chronicle activity and the progress made for the enlargement or betterment of the library service as regards the state. Always and of course excepting Illinois, Texas, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada,

Utah and Oklahoma are taking primary steps, while California, Kansas, Tennessee and several others are enlarging the scope of their present activities.

The work of the State libraries, particularly in the South, in aid of library extension, is most commendable. In Texas the Department of insurance, to which the state library is attached, is leading in the effort to make a separate department of libraries, much to the astonishment of the politicians. These things, whether they will be successful or not, spell progress in library development.

Those who have heretofore tried to overcome the inertia of the situation in Illinois will make another effort during the next few months, but it must be confessed that the situation is far from promising good results. Still if the opposition of entrenched power can be overcome, the result will be all the more encouraging and the cause is worthy of the work given to it.

The point of view of a publisher—Attention is called to the address of one of the guests at the dinner of the New York library club, in which he gives his views of the situation relative to book prices. While there is undoubtedly a large increase in the cost of material and manufacture of books, and due allowance should be given to these in counting the cost of library purchases, the other points in the publishers' position hardly stand review.

It probably is true, as the speaker stated, that some authors are "making large demands on the publishers," but they are only the "best-sellers" class of writers, and certainly only the members of that class would have the temerity to

"expect immediate payment." The "usual" royalty is about 12½ per cent, more often 10 per cent than above it, and there has been no fluctuation for many years in the basis of royalties as a class, however the final prices may range.

It is rather a curious view that is expressed in the statement that the book prices do not affect librarians personally, followed by the other statement that in Germany there has always been an understanding between the library and the bookseller and that the former accepts the rate on books fixed by those who make this rate; and, because of this, booksellers flourish in Germany where they do not exist in the United States. It is not added, as it might be, that free libraries flourish in the United States where they could not exist in Germany.

The charge that librarians are responsible for libraries being outside the restrictions of the copyright law, is a compliment that from one point of view is hardly deserved, while from another it may be. The first effort to put libraries *within* the restriction was defeated by Senators Sherman, Carlisle, Daniel, Vance and others. The Library copyright league probably saved the situation two years ago. It is not easy, then, to see how librarians can be held "responsible for the inconsistencies of the copyright law in America."

As long as libraries do not buy pirated editions, or violate the right of importation of "one copy for use and not for sale," it is hard to see how such charges as have been made can cause any change in their protest against a tariff on books intended for public library use.

What a weariness of the flesh a strict adherence to duty entails sometimes on a public servant.

Distribution of Literature

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I have been reading of Mr Wellman's achievement (*New York Libraries*, January, '09, p. 162), and find our own record has not been bad. We have a small staff, and a very small appropriation, and therefore have been unable to do much missionary work outside the library, beyond newspaper lists and notes. Our circulation increased from 129,594, in 1907, to 167,244, in 1908—only a fair increase, of course. The circulation of fiction increased $13\frac{1}{4}$ per cent and the circulation of nonfiction $41\frac{1}{2}$ per cent—which is rather better. An analysis along racial lines would show a much larger percentage, so far as our English readers are concerned, as French-Canadians (who make up one-third of our population) are tremendous fiction readers and hold down the percentage of nonfiction.

Our experience here, brief as it is, does not bear out Mr Wellman's statement that public libraries today "fail to serve as active, positive forces in the distribution of their best literature." Of the 30,000 v. now in the circulating department (about 9000 added in 1908) over two-thirds are nonfiction. The proportion that have been on the shelves for the minimum period mentioned by Mr Wellman—two years and four months—is insignificant. We allow 3 v. of nonfiction to be taken out for two weeks, but in practice no reasonable limitation is put upon either the number taken or the time they may be retained (where we are satisfied they are wanted for serious work), subject, of course, to the usual proviso that any book asked for in the interval must be promptly returned. One experiment that has been found worth while is the utilizing of the open shelves for books that have been lying idle in the stack.

The conditions may be measured by these particulars. They represent, I am sure, the normal state of things in any fairly active public library in America.

LAWRENCE F. BURPEE,
Carnegie library, Ottawa, Canada.

A Solution Called For

I heard of a library school graduate in a good town in — the other day who is receiving \$40 a month. I investigated the salaries paid the teachers in the public schools of the town and I found the following list:

Superintendent of schools, \$1,550 (nine months); principal of high school, \$80 a month; special teachers in high school, \$60, \$65, \$70 a month; music teacher, \$60; drawing teacher, \$65; grade teachers, one at \$47.50, four at \$50, two at \$55, one at \$57.50, one at \$60, one at \$65.

What are the factors in this problem? — is called a good library state. It has had an active library commission for years. The town in question has a building and has money for material progress, streets, lights, etc. The town officers are paid well for the services they render.

The library is said to be doing good work. But there is something definitely weak somewhere that such a salary should be offered and accepted by the librarian. There is food here for thought.

OBSERVER.

Rural Literature

A librarian in sending a list of books on farming recently, writes as follows:

At the time of the Poultry institute held here the conductor discussed very briefly the different books on poultry that we had. There were printed lists of these books for any who wished them with the result that we have been unable to supply the demand for poultry literature, which only goes to show that the "honest farmer" is not as prejudiced against agricultural literature as we have been led to believe. There is too much condescension and patronage displayed by the library faction that dwells in cities and talks about missionary work with the farmers.

Book mark No. 9 of the East St Louis (Ill.) public library contains "Some late books for the fireside" and "Some recent editions by Catholic authors."

A British Criticism

Most of us will receive with surprise the intimation voiced in the January number of *Library World*, that English and American library interests are antagonistic. We did not know it. We are unprepared for such statements as this: "With a few notable exceptions, American librarians are a somewhat narrow-minded, self-sufficient and wilfully ignorant class of public officials"—and to hear, furthermore, that we are overpaid, overfed, fritting away our time on futilities.

The writer is anonymous—a great point in his disfavor, for the anonymity permits him to indulge in adjectives and adverbs that are not commonly used in a polite interchange of opinion. It may be true, as the writer—let us call him J.—says, that American literary periodicals occasionally refer to European library conditions in an overbearing manner, but it is hardly evident why American librarians should be made responsible for this. It is still more incomprehensible that Mr J., while taking Americans to task for their alleged unfair view of European library matters, indulges himself in a criticism of our library affairs so manifestly unjust and ill-willed that anyone must see at once its poor purpose.

Mr J. compares the status of three each of the best known American and British public municipal libraries. Here is what he shows:

	British.	American.
Population	1,261,000	1,277,000
Expenditure	\$210,000	\$600,000
Stock	657,000	1,318,000
Tickets	119,000	185,000
Total circulation.....	4,383,000	3,775,000
Staff	268	624
Average salary.....	\$310	\$630

To begin, it would have been a fair and straightforward thing to state at once what libraries are being compared. These figures may or may not be correct. They may be surrounded by circumstances that make a direct comparison of that which they purport to express impossible. As for salaries, Mr J. should certainly know that the value of money

is widely different here and in England. As for the average amount of work performed by the average staff member, it is impossible to make just comparisons unless the methods of routine, the daily hours of routine work, etc., are known. Mr J. may come and tell us that a book can be bound in Germany for 75 cents while in America the same binding would cost \$1.50—a futile argument altogether! His figures, if they be true, may be worth no more than this. He states that "it took a staff of 20 specialists, doing nothing else, to catalog 30,000 titles in one year, an average of 1500 per annum." Let us know what library employs 30 catalogers doing nothing else, and placing their daily average at *five* titles per day! It is absurd, impossible.

Here is another example of Mr J.'s argumentation: One American library on which his criticism is focused issues in one year 407,000 children's books, "the great majority of which are of the most namby-pamby, wishy-washy character it is possible to imagine." How does he know so well the quality of these books, and how can any fair-minded man be expected to believe him?

"Now and again we hear," pursues Mr J., "of American librarians breaking down in health." And why? Mr J. knows it. It is not overstrain from serious work, but "simply indigestion, caused by lack of active employment and"—a too free indulgence in gastronomic delicacies, such as "pumpkin pie, clams, baked beans and canvasback duck all the year round." Now we know that when we slip out in our luncheon hour and partake of a frugal collation of pork and beans, the eye of our distant friend is upon us!

This, then, is the quality of Mr J.'s critical acumen. He sums up the status of our affairs thus: "In classification, cataloging, charging, subdivision of work on the departmental basis, coöperation and the general stereotyping of methods, America has accomplished nothing for 20 years. . . . She never will move another step forward until the whole of her . . . (adjectives) . . . methods

have been thoroughly revised, and the blight of administrative uniformity has been removed. . . . The American library system is a buttered gravestone. . . . etc.

As the gentle reader will observe, Mr J. hardly denies himself anything at which we, if we were to criticize seriously European colleagues, would hesitate. But suppose we deduct this, does there not remain a grain of truth in the criticism?

I do not see that American affairs can be assailed for being *different* from the *European*, nor that the library movement in America is more fully developed than anywhere else in the world. I do not see that even a most lavish use of funds for library purposes is a waste as long as society generally, and governments in consequence, spends funds for numerous useless purposes with a lavish hand. Ours is a worthy object indeed. But I do see in Mr J.'s harsh and unjust sentiment a warning against considering our methods too well explained, to the world outside. Our very enthusiasm often may lead us to think that everyone else shares our views as a matter of course.

I doubt if any country employs so large an amount of foreign help in its libraries as does America, and if this foreign (English and continental) element in our library work would anywhere else feel so free to exercise its power as here. Their European reminiscences and training, their traditional tendencies, conservative as they often are, blend, it seems, very happily with the native element. We feel that certain phases of American library work are yet in an experimental stage, but we know that nowhere is the anxiety for the benefit of the reader, greater, nowhere the kindness more thoroughly pervading the library system, than here. I admit that this enthusiasm has its dangers; our ideals may become a trifle stereotyped and formal, our reports trite in their detail. Yet it is very clear to me that Mr J. has chosen a wrong method to lend us—shall I say helping hand!

J. CHRISTIAN BAY.

The New York Library Club

Outsiders' meeting

A joint meeting of the New York and Long Island Library clubs was held at the rooms of the Aldine association, January 14. This meeting was the second in the New York library club's series of "Outsiders' meetings" and was devoted to the relations of libraries and publishers.

Copyright

George Haven Putnam opened the discussion by an address on the subject of copyright. He considered first the subject of the proceeds from the publication of a book, and said in part:

Once an author thought himself sufficiently recompensed if he got his book into print at all; but now he is making large demands from the publisher, and usually expects immediate payment on the supposition that the book is sure to be a financial success. Some conservative publishers, however, refuse to yield to this speculative demand. The penalty may be the loss of a successful book. Add to the increased demands of the authors the large increase in the cost of manufacture of a book—14 per cent in the last year—and the fact that an amount of skilled labor is required in disposing of books and you have the publishers' problem. Librarians have organized for the benefit of civilization and have worked out certain business methods in the conduct of libraries. They hold that the libraries ought to have books at certain prices, none of which affect the librarian personally, but do crowd down those who have the distribution of the books. In Germany since the organization of the book trade in 1523 there has been an understanding between the library and the bookseller; the library accepts the rate on books fixed by those who make this rate. In the smallest town, which in the United States could not support a bookseller, there will be found an intelligent bookseller, and not the slightest friction over book prices. Librarians forget the material and equitable claims of other

people and this is a detriment to the country. Publishers also have the same concern that any group of people may have to serve the public. The librarians by their organization have succeeded in getting libraries put outside the restriction of the copyright law. The result is a muddle and a travesty on justice. Librarians are responsible for the inconsistencies of the law in the United States. In literary work there should be no political boundaries; copyright should be international. The publisher should have control of his own market; the English publisher has this, the American has not; the English publisher can put his books in the American market, but librarians have undermined the possibility of international equity and have destroyed the American publishers' market. If booksellers become discouraged and crowded out, literary work suffers. The problem is before us for solution. The publishers are not engaged in a conspiracy but in an endeavor to make literary production consist with business conditions.

Samuel W. Marvin next took up the subject of the manufacture of books for library use. He thought that the author, publisher and collector of books should coöperate; each should understand the other fellow's side. A book, like man, is fearfully and wonderfully made. The author gives a spiritual character to a book, but it has also a body. In all production there are two elements—material and labor. In the preparation of a book after the manuscript has been accepted there is first the selection of type. Experts have established approved models of type and type-page. The publisher selects from these. Then follows quality of electrotypes, choice of paper, presswork, illustrations and binding.

F. N. Doubleday was on the program to discuss the question of prices and discounts, but after protesting that he had no intention of doing so he made some facetious remarks on the difficulties of publishers between authors and booksellers (or librarians), and the ex-

pensive amusement of book publishing, and gave brief and cautious answers to such questions as daring librarians ventured to ask him.

Annual dinner

The annual dinner of the club was held on the evening of January 28 at the Hotel Marlborough. About 400 members and their friends were in attendance, a larger number than the New York library club has ever gathered together for any occasion. The president, Mr Bostwick, acted as toastmaster, and explained that the program of the evening carried out the idea of the year's programs of the club's regular meetings. An unusual feature, however, was the presentation of an appropriate gift to each speaker as he was introduced. The inimitable gesture and the "just wait a minute," or "but first," with which the presidential head disappeared under the table as soon as the name of the next speaker had been announced never failed to provoke peals of laughter, even before the reappearance of the smiling face, and the reading of the piece of presentation poetry invariably found attached to the present.

Charles Battell Loomis, representing the authors, read a short story illustrating the method of the "no ordinary man" in writing, illustrating and selling his own material to the publisher. He received to aid his further labors in this direction a can of midnight oil tied with blue and white ribbon, the club's colors. He responded that an author is always glad to see a full dinner pail.

Dr I. N. Funk, after expressing his appreciation of a new printing press which the president brought up from under the table, made a plea for simplified spelling from the publishers' point of view.

Troy Kinney, for the "team," as the president called them, of illustrators, acknowledged the usefulness of a foot of red, white and blue lead pencil, and trusted that with the implement he might be able to do as well as Mr Loomis,

whose story had described the production of a dozen pictures in an hour.

The book, being written, illustrated and published, must be well bound to be acceptable to librarians. Mrs K. E. Barry, of the well-known bindery of Cedric Chivers, smiled her thanks for a bookish-looking piece of binding whose contents proved to be unusually sweet for a book, and spoke for the artistic and practical elements in her profession.

The architects were represented by Walter Cook, of the firm of Babb, Cook & Welsh. His gift was a trowel with which to lay the corner stones of library buildings.

Hamilton Holt, of the *Independent*, was the grateful recipient of a pair of editorial shears of sufficient length (about a yard), and spoke of the attempt of his magazine, as of all similar ones, to be of use to librarians in the selection of books.

The president then called upon Sarah Askew of the New Jersey library commission for some of her Uncle Remus stories, which librarians always enjoy, and with these the evening happily closed.

Atlantic City Meeting

The program of the thirteenth annual library meeting, to be held as usual at Atlantic City, March 19-29, is as follows:

Address of welcome by Mayor Franklin B. Stoy of Atlantic City.

Popular education in literature, Professor Stockton Axon, Princeton university.

What the municipality expects in return for the money appropriated for library purposes, E. L. Katzenbach.

The Celtic revival, Dr Cornelius Weygandt, University of Pennsylvania.

The study of the use of books and library catalogs in normal schools, Ada F. Liveright, Pedagogical library, Philadelphia.

The experimental temptation of the attractive power of books vs. The librarian's method, Montrose J. Moses.

Address, Mary W. Plummer, director Pratt institute library school, Brooklyn.

Book matters at home and abroad, Dr E. C. Richardson, Princeton university.

School methods and library work, Dr George Twitmyer, superintendent of schools, Wilmington, Del.

The headquarters will be at the Chelsea hotel as usual. Special excursion rates will be offered from Philadelphia and New York.

Ontario Library Association

Meeting of 1909

The executive board of the Ontario library association has arranged for the ninth annual meeting, April 12-13, 1909. The following tentative program was discussed and agreed upon:

Charging system, illustrated from public libraries of Toronto, Chatham and Ottawa.

The workingman and the library, Inspector Leavitt.

Bookbinding, Cedric Chivers.

Exhibit of Library of Congress cards.

Reference work in the Library, W. O. Carson, London; L. J. Burpee, Ottawa.

It was agreed to try to secure a prominent librarian from the United States for the evening speaker.

In reference to the distribution of public documents, it was thought advisable to group the public libraries of Ontario into several divisions. First, the smaller libraries to whom only a few of the leading publications should be sent; second, a section of the larger libraries to whom a larger number of the more important documents might be sent; and third, a representative library in each county, or libraries that have buildings of their own and have sufficient space, to whom all the publications of the government should be sent. A committee was instructed to prepare such a list and will report progress at the meeting of the association in April.

Secretary Shepard of the N. E. A. announces that an extra supply of the Cleveland volume of proceedings has been printed to answer the demand from those who are not members of the association. The papers presented at Cleveland constitute an unusually valuable contribution to educational literature, and should be easily accessible for educational people everywhere. The volume may be obtained from Secretary Irwin Shepard, Winona, Minn., for \$2.

A. L. A. Constitution

Feb. 8, 1909.

TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I have consulted a Massachusetts lawyer in regard to the constitution of the American library association. He suggests that the association drop its present constitution entirely and simply add to its articles of incorporation, given below, certain by-laws similar to the 13 suggestions which I made for the constitution, and which were printed in the last number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The lawyer says, "Why does the association want a constitution? The present one reads like one made for an old-fashioned temperance or debating society. A corporation organized as this one is under Massachusetts statutes simply needs by-laws."

I send you this as being quite in line with opinions expressed by many members of the association, that we have enmeshed ourselves long enough in rules and regulations. Let us have a board of directors, who, under certain general restrictions, shall run the institution.

CHARTER.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Be it known, that whereas Justin Winsor, C. A. Cutter, Samuel S. Green, James L. Whitney, Melvil Dui, Fred B. Perkins and Thomas W Bicknell have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of the American library association for the purpose of promoting the library interests of the country by exchanging views, reaching conclusions and inducing coöperation in all departments of bibliothecal science and economy; by disposing the public mind to the founding and improving of libraries; and by cultivating good will among its own members, and having complied with the provisions of the statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the president, treasurer and executive board of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of corporations, and recorded in this office:

Now, therefore, I, Henry B. Peirce, secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that said Justin Winsor, C. A. Cutter, Samuel S. Green, James L. Whitney, Melvil Dui, Fred B. Perkins and Thomas W. Bicknell, their associates and successors, are legally organized and

established as, and are hereby made, an existing corporation under the name of the American library association, with the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties, and restrictions, which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereunto affixed, this tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine. (Signed) HENRY B. PEIRCE,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

J. C. DANA.

A Case of Discipline Working

A small boy who had been forbidden to come to the library for a period of two weeks as a penalty for disorderly conduct in and around the library, sent the following note at the expiration of a week:

My Dear Miss Brown:

Please excuse me for being so noisy in and around the library. I am very sorry, But when the 1st of February comes I will be so quiet that you will want me here all the time. I am lonesome nights after supper. So when I can go in the library again I will be quiet.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL COHEN.

A Comparison in Book Circulation

A comparison in circulation according to population taken from the report of the Public library of Newark, N. J., for 1908, gives the following figures:

City.	Population in 1907 in Thousands.	Books Lent per Capita.
Boston	609	2.4
Buffalo	400	3.19
Cleveland	459	3.6
Cincinnati	348	2.3
Detroit	324	2.12
Washington	313	1.5
Baltimore	561	1.22
Indianapolis	233	2.11
Seattle	200	2.25
Jersey City	243	2.
Kansas City	185	1.5
Los Angeles	263	2.22
Milwaukee	326	2.14
Minneapolis	286	2.11
St Paul	211	1.43
Pittsburg	376	1.7
Providence	208	0.6
Newark	300	2.83

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Atlanta

In November Miss Rankin made a trip East, visiting many libraries and three schools—Pratt institute, Drexel institute, and the New York State library school. The object of the trip was to study methods in the various libraries as well as to attend some of the lectures in the library schools.

Announcement is made of the birth of a son on January 18 to Mr and Mrs Max F. Howland of Boston. Mrs Howland was Anne Wallace before her marriage.

Notes of graduates

Claire Moran, class of 1907, has left library work and has entered the convent at Washington, Ga.

Alberta Malone, class of 1908, is organizing the library of the Woman's college of Meridian, Miss.

Announcement is made of the birth of a daughter to Mr and Mrs Albert Adams. Mrs Adams was before her marriage Hortense Horne, class of 1907.

JULIA RANKIN, Director.

Training school for children's librarians

Carnegie library, Pittsburgh

Henry E. Legler, secretary of the Wisconsin free library commission, gave the following lectures to the training school of Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, the first week in February:

History and scope of library commissions. Before there were printed books, Cradle books and their fellows, Gutenberg and those who followed, Daye to Franklin—Private and modern presses, Don Quixote, Robinson Crusoe and others; Children's books—In the land of Make-believe, North American Indian folklore.

Mr Legler's lecture on Indian folklore was thrown open to an audience of 400 boys, who heartily appreciated the many interesting stories he told, and the lantern slide illustrations showing the homes, manners and customs and myths of the red Indians.

Drexel institute

Montrose J. Moses on January 11 lectured to the class on "Social forces in children's literature," and on the evening of the same day before the Pennsylvania library club on "The experimental temptation, or the attractive power of books," continuing the subject of children's reading.

Arne Kildal of the Library of Congress lectured on January 25 on "Norway and Norwegian libraries."

Arthur L. Bailey, librarian of the Wilmington institute free library, on February 1 gave the class a helpful talk on bookbinding.

The students also attended the lecture given at the institute January 7 by Garrett P. Serviss on the Shakspeare country.

The annual exhibit of picture bulletins was held early in February.

Sarah Askew, organizer for the Free library commission of New Jersey, addressed the school on February 8. Her subject was "The work of an organizer."

ALICE B. KROEGER.

University of Illinois

In accordance with the custom of the past two years, the members of the senior class have been assigned for a month of field work in the public libraries of Illinois, as follows:

Jacksonville, Helen Ervin; Galesburg, Jennie Craig and Mabel Saemann; Bloomington, Withers free library, Leonora Perry; Decatur, Ella McIntire; Danville, Elizabeth Ritchie; Joliet, Norah McNeill; Oak Park, Clara Touzalin and Myrtle Knepper; Evanston, Inez Sachs; Rockford, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Bigelow; University of Illinois, Mabel Jones.

At the close of the fourth week of apprentice work, the members of the class will meet in Chicago for a week's visit among the libraries, bookstores and binderies of Chicago and the suburbs.

During the month of January Mrs Salome Cutter Fairchild gave four lectures. She spoke on the Duties of the librarian, Presidents of the A. L. A. (il-

illustrated), Development of the library movement in the United States (illustrated), and The librarian's reading. The members of the school, faculty and library staff had opportunities of meeting Mrs Fairchild in an informal social way at two teas given during her brief visit, one by her hostess, Mrs Joel Stebbins (May L. Prentiss, 1901, N. Y., S. L. S.); and a second one by the Library club at the home of Miss Price.

The marriage of Edith L. Spray, 1907, and Fred Sawyer, U. of I., 1904, was celebrated at Arlington Heights, Ill., on February 6. Mr and Mrs Sawyer will live in Seattle, Wash.

The school has received recently a bibliography of Marcus Whiteman, compiled by C. W. Smith, B. L. S., 1905, assistant librarian of the University of Washington. The bibliography contains 62 pages and appears as a Bulletin of the University of Washington, entitled University studies no. 2.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

New York state library

The special course in Children's work, consisting of 11 lectures, by E. H. Anderson, Frances J. Olcott, Clara W. Hunt and Annie T. Eaton, will be given February 27-March 10.

The four following lectures, by outside librarians, have recently been given before the school:

January 15-16. Two lectures on Administration of large libraries, by Frank P. Hill of the Brooklyn public library.

January 20. Norway and Norwegian libraries, by Arne Kildal, '07, now of the Library of Congress.

February 1. Simmons college library school, by Mary E. Robbins, '92, director Simmons college library school.

Mr Hill's lectures included many points in administration as successfully practiced in the Brooklyn public library.

Among the subjects treated were Staff organization, Coöperation of departments, and Library finances.

The subjects chosen by the class of

1909 for their graduation bibliographies are as follows:

Linn R. Blanchard, English fiction dealing with stage life (selected annotated list); Helen Coffin, Index to New York state documents, 1777-1830; Florence B. Gray, American colonial furniture; Gertrude E. Phipps, English cathedrals; a popular treatment; George F. Strong, Jane Austen; Joseph L. Wheeler, Trades and manufactures; Mabel Z. Wilson, Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

Pratt institute

The list of lecturers to date (February 2) is as follows:

Miss W. L. Taylor, on November 11, on the Work of the information desk.

W. H. Brett, on December 1, on the Cleveland public library, with stereopticon views.

J. C. Dana, on January 8, on Printing.

Dr S. G. Ayres of Drew seminary, on January 12, on Theological libraries.

Arne Kildal, on January 22, on Norway and Norwegian libraries.

Ida Mendenhall, on January 26, on Library instruction in the normal school.

Mary E. Hall, on February 2, on the Work of the high school librarian.

Lectures planned for the future are on: February 9, by Louise Hinsdale, on The town library.

February 16, by Caroline M. Hewins, on A child and her book.

February 23, by Mrs Adelaide Maltby, on The city child and the library.

March 2, by Clara Hunt, on The principles of book selection for children.

March 9, by Sarah B. Askew, on the Work of the organizer.

March 16, by J. I. Wyer, jr, on United States documents.

April 2, at Washington, D. C., by W. D. Johnston, on The contribution of local libraries to national bibliography.

April 6 and 13, by Isabel E. Lord, on Book-buying.

April 20, by E. H. Anderson, on the new building of the New York public library.

May 3, by Alice Tyler, two lectures on Library commissions and their work.

Since the last report, the class of 1909 has organized and elected its officers, Julius Lucht, president, and Minnie W. Leatherman, secretary-treasurer. It has taken part in the two annual functions of the Graduates' association, the first term reception and the January luncheon, and has attended nearly all the meetings of the Long Island and New York library clubs. At the luncheon, the association welcomed Mr and Mrs E. H. Anderson as its guests, and had the pleasure of listening to some practical remarks from the former. At the business meeting preceding the luncheon, the following officers were elected: President, Ruth S. Grannis, librarian of the Grolier club; vice-president, Mrs Flora de Gogorza of the Brooklyn public library; secretary, Julia Wheelock of the Pratt institute library; treasurer, Julia M. Carter of the New York public library.

Movements of graduates

Elsie Adams ('98) has returned from California much improved in health and has entered the Normal college library, New York, as assistant.

Alice Cole ('06) has been appointed indexer in the reference department of the New York public library.

Marion Cowell ('08) entered the library of the Engineering societies, New York, in November.

Maude Derickson ('02) has resigned her position in the Portland (Ore.) library for reasons of health.

H. H. B. Meyer ('02) has been appointed to the post of chief bibliographer, Library of Congress.

Mary Parker ('98) resigned the librarianship of the Elyria (O.) public library, and has entered the filing department of the C., R. I. & P. office, New York.

Elizabeth Renninger ('96) has been appointed head of the Far Rockaway branch, Queens Borough library.

Elizabeth Sherwood ('07) was appointed cataloger in the library of the Department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Frieda Simshauser ('08) is in the Public library of Philadelphia.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

Western Reserve university

A temporary change in the faculty was made necessary January 1 by the illness of Miss Barden, who has for two years been assistant at the school. The school regrets very much the necessity for Miss Barden's withdrawal, as she has made a large place for herself by her able work and pleasant personality, and it is hoped that her absence will need to be only a temporary one. The school is very fortunate in being able to have as Miss Barden's substitute Thirza Grant of the class of '08. This was made possible by the courtesy of the Cleveland public library, upon whose staff Miss Grant has been since graduating.

The course in children's work under Miss Power and Miss Burnite, which is being given through January and February, has been somewhat enlarged this year. One of the new features in the course is the picture bulletin work, which was formerly given in the library organization course.

Elizabeth Griffin, for the past two years instructor at the school in book-binding and repair, was married on January 16 to Samuel H. West of Columbus, O.

On Friday evening, January 8, Mr Brett, Miss Eastman, the members of the Cleveland public library board and the staff of the Woodland library gave a reception at the Woodland branch library to the staff of the public library and the Library school. During the early part of the evening a musical program was given in the auditorium by several members of the staff; following this a delicious collation was served. The always attractive branch was made still more beautiful by very tasteful decorations in yellow, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

The Library school class was very informally entertained Saturday evening, January 16, at the Perkins children's library by Miss Power and Miss Burnite.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The Chicago library club was the guest of the Chicago historical society on the evening of its February meeting, to celebrate the Lincoln anniversary. An address was given, most entertainingly, by Col. Clark E. Carr on personal reminiscences of President Lincoln to a large company. The Chicago historical society probably has the largest collection of Lincoln relics in the country. Its large collection of original manuscripts was reinforced by many loans from Robert T. Lincoln's personal collection. Caroline McIlvaine, librarian of the society, arranged the display.

District of Columbia—The regular monthly meeting of the Library association was held January 13, at the Public library, with an attendance of about 80. The election of the following members was announced: Mabel Archibald of the Public library; Harriet W. Sewall, Library of the Department of agriculture; Marion Wakely, Document library; Marguerite C. Wright, Library of Congress, and Edith A. Wright, Library of Bureau of education.

Stevenson's library

Lieut. W. E. Safford read the paper for the evening, "The library of Robert Louis Stevenson."

Lieut. Safford began his paper with an account of his first acquaintance with the works of his admired author and his growing interest and love as he came to know them more and more. He told how, on a visit to Samoa, he went, as to a shrine, to the grave of Stevenson on Mount Vaea, and to the house in which he spent his last years. His great interest became known to E. W. Gurr, solicitor for Mrs Stevenson, and who had been authorized to sell a part of the author's library, which had been packed in boxes and stored in a small carpenter shop. Mr Gurr, deeming the opportunity favorable, set a day for their sale. Lieut. Safford was fortunate enough to secure the greater portion. Among the books were some that had been owned by Stevenson's father and grandfather,

by his mother and by others near to him. Others had inscriptions by friends and by authors from whom he had received them.

Dumas' *Vicomte de Bragelonne*, which Stevenson read again and again, a little black book, "a crib to Phaedo," as a note on its flyleaf informs us, bearing the title, Plato's apology of Socrates, the Crito and Phaedo, together with many paper-backed French books with green, orange and yellow covers, various Bohn's translations and the like, mentioned in his letter to Colvin, and others were also in the lot. Burton's *History of Scotland* was there, and Veitch, *History and poetry of the border*, and other works on Scotland, read as source books for the Romantic history of the Highlands, planned by him, but never written. There were guide books of the Cevennes region, with maps, and Peyrat's *Pasteurs du Desert*, throwing interesting light on the journey chronicled in "Travels with a donkey." A Chaucer, Bohn's Homer, Jamieson's Etymological dictionary of the Scottish language, and other books, with numerous underscorings and marked passages, revealed often the source of information embodied in his books.

The account of the removal of the books to this country was not wholly without incident. A sudden rainstorm in the harbor of Manila came very near swamping the light boat in which they were being transferred to the transport for America. But they escaped this peril and were safely brought to this country.

Mr Safford closed with a paragraph from Stevenson's splendid appreciation for the *Vicomte de Bragelonne*.

After the paper, the president, in behalf of the society, thanked Lieut. Safford for his very interesting paper. The remainder of the evening was delightfully spent in meeting the speaker and in examining the volumes from his collection of *Stevensoniana* which he had brought with him. Light refreshments were served to the members and guests.

CARL P. P. VITZ, Sec'y.

Florida—The annual conference of the Florida library association was held in conjunction with the Florida educational association conference, at Gainesville, Fla., Dec. 30-31, 1908. There are so few library workers in the state that an independent session is not yet practicable.

Addresses before the Educational association were delivered by W. D. Carn of Ocala, superintendent of schools of Marion county, who will represent his county at the next session of the state legislature on the subject, "Some needed library legislation for Florida," and by Mary W. Apthorp, librarian of the State college for women, Tallahassee, on the subject, "Reference work with college students."

At the business session the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Mary W. Apthorp, librarian State college for women, Tallahassee; vice-president, M. B. Hadley, librarian University of Florida, Gainesville; secretary and treasurer, Mollie B. Gibson, children's librarian, Public library, Jacksonville.

Indiana—The January meeting of the Indianapolis library club was held in the Public library, which was prettily decorated with flowers for the occasion. The entire evening was devoted to a discussion of "Who's Who." Three-minute talks were given by a number of club members, telling of a number of former and present leaders in the A. L. A., and something as to what they contributed to the A. L. A. and library work in general. Leaders in the A. L. A. who were considered were Dr Melvil Dewey, C. A. Cutter, Dr W. F. Poole, Justin Winsor, John Cotton Dana, Caroline M. Hewins and Ainsworth Spofford.

Indiana has contributed much to the A. L. A. through several prominent workers, and the work of these was spoken of also. They included Dr J. S. Billings, Edwin H. Anderson, Mary W. Plummer, Anderson Hopkins, Mary E. Ahern and W. E. Henry. Those who

spoke during the evening were Carrie E. Scott, Mary Zollinger, Otis Green, Bertha Carter, Florence Jones, Merica Hoagland, Ella Saltmarsh and D. C. Brown.

CHALMERS HADLEY, Sec'y.

Massachusetts—The winter (sixty-ninth) meeting of the Massachusetts library club was held at Boston, January 21-22.

The session opened on Thursday morning with a book talk, consisting of five-minute discussions of recent important and doubtful books. Mr Carter of the Boston Museum of fine arts discussed notable titles. Mr Carter said there were three books which every library should have: namely, Noyes, "The gate of appreciation," which gives the origin and significance of works of art; Hildebrand, "The problem of form in painting and sculpture," and Reinach, "Apollo; or, A history of art throughout the ages." Mr Carter then mentioned the following titles, giving the scope and value of each: The "Klassiker der kunst" series, consisting mainly of excellent plates, valuable to libraries which cannot afford photograph collections; "Italia artistica," in 40 v., well illustrated and useful to travel clubs; the "Connoisseur's library," good for jewelry, and "Men and fashions of the nineteenth century," which the author intended as a history of costume, but which, because of its reproductions of good pictures, is really a valuable contribution to the history of art of the nineteenth century. Grant Allen's "Evolution of Italian art" was recommended for the popular but not for the scientific library. Other books of importance were Berenson's critical works, The life of Whistler, by Elizabeth R. and Joseph Pennell, the special number of the "Studio" devoted to St Gaudens, and La Farge's "Higher life in art."

Miss Prouty of the Boston public library spoke on Fairy tales, dividing them into two classes, originals and collections. The collections are now in preponderance. These are to be judged

by what stories they include, what versions of these stories they give, and the general make-up of the book. The following titles were mentioned as being especially good: namely, "The children's hour," Vol. 1, edited by Eva March Tappan, containing besides the old standard fairy tales, stories from India and Chinese tales; the old familiar versions are given, and the make-up of the book is good; "Firelight stories," by Carolyn Bailey, good for very small children; "The children's treasure trove of pearls," edited by Mary W. Tileston; "Mother Goose village," by Madge Bigham, and Wilson's "Myths of the red children," good for the children reading *Hiawatha* for the first time. Faint praise was given to the Oak tree collection, and to "Magic casements," edited by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith. The latter contains good fairy stories, but the children object to it on the ground that it has no pictures and that it "looks hard."

Dr Robert P. Bigelow of the Massachusetts institute of technology spoke of the methods employed in selecting technical books for the institute. The professor at the head of each department is responsible for the selection of books on his subject. The librarian, however, from lists of books received and from technical periodicals picks out titles which seem to him desirable and sends them with data to the heads of the departments for approval. Dr Bigelow spoke of the periodicals *Science* and *Nature* as being especially useful for reviews.

Katherine P. Loring then gave in a few words her opinion of Locke's "Morals of Marcus Ordeyne," saying: "The book is fairly well written and constructed and the moral is all right, but one has to go through a good deal of dirt to get to it." Miss Loring strongly advised every librarian not to buy the book.

"The forewarners," by Giovanni Cona, was the next book under discussion. Miss Rabardy of the Boston Athenæum

gave an outline of the story. The book is gloomy and depressing in the extreme, and Miss Rabardy said she was at a loss to understand why it had made such a stir in Italy and in England when published in the "Nuova antologia."

Frank H. Whitmore of the Brockton public library spoke on "The secret agent" and "A point of honor," by Joseph Conrad. These books are below the standard of the author's other works. "The secret agent" is unpleasant, the last third distinctly forbidding; "A point of honor" is rather trivial, and is treated with too heavy a hand, but because of their literary finish Mr Conrad's books are all above the average. No writer in England or America so nearly approaches the style of Pater. Mr Conrad's books belong in a library of any size.

J. Randolph Coolidge, jr, of Boston spoke on "The United States as a world power," by Prof. Archibald Cary Coolidge. Mr Coolidge said in part: "Not often does a work by a Massachusetts man appear in Berlin and Paris at the same time as in London and New York. The United States as a world power is a subject of such interest that the volume was reviewed in Mexico before it appeared on our shelves in Boston. This shows that the subject is actually of greater moment outside of America than here. On the cover of the Paris edition there are advertised eight volumes having direct reference to the same subject. The book gives the points of view on questions on which the United States as a world power is interested, and treats of the relations of the United States with each of the great powers."

Miss Henry of the Attleborough public library spoke on "First and last things," by H. G. Wells. Miss Henry found Mr Wells amateurish, unconvincing and ineffective. "The book is a striving for effect and not a contribution to the subjects which it discusses. The chapter on Christianity alone would debar it from purchase by any library."

The works of Prof. James Hervey

Hyslop were discussed by Mary L. Lamprey of the Ames free library, North Easton. Miss Lamprey said that it is well for even a small library to have one or two books on psychical research, and that Prof. Hyslop's are desirable, as they attempt to explain psychic phenomena by known laws. Miss Lamprey especially recommended, "Psychical research and the resurrection," "The borderland of psychical research" and "Science and a future life."

"Jack's reference book" was then brought to the notice of the club by Dr Wilson. The book is published in London by Jack for \$1, and contains a vast amount of miscellaneous information.

An amusing poem, "Public documents," by Harlan H. Ballard, was read by his son.

Discussion, led by Dr Wilson, followed on the schedule of prices charged by the Wilson Company for the *Readers' Guide*, libraries paying \$6, \$8, \$10 and \$12 for it, according to the number of periodicals taken, and the income of the library.

The next session opened with a paper by Mrs Margaret Deland on "The change in the feminine ideal."* Following Mrs Deland's paper there was a round table, in charge of Miss Mary E. Robbins of Simmons college. The following topics and questions were discussed: Is it true that the price of labor and material has increased so that it is necessary to add five cents apiece to the price of binding books? Some advice about the possibility of guarding against the mutilation of newspapers and magazines; Is there any possible use for old *Readers' Guides*? The advisability of leaving off not only book numbers, but class numbers from the backs of books; The advisability of binding periodicals which have no indexes, and which are not indexed in the periodical indexes; How valuable do small libraries find the *Library Art Club*? Methods of getting back overdue books when the library messenger has been unsuccessful.

*See page 89.

The meetings of the day were followed by a dinner at 6:15, at which the attendance was 172, and there were many bright speeches. Col. Benton, who represented Mayor Hibbard, spoke on the position of trustees. Other speakers were: William C. Lane, librarian of Harvard university; John C. Schwab, librarian of Yale university; Benjamin Goodridge, Miss Loring, J. Randolph Coolidge, jr, and Gen. Morris Schaff, so well known as the author of "The spirit of old West Point." Sam Walter Foss read an original poem.

On Friday morning it was voted to hold a one-day meeting early in May at some place not far from the eastern part of the state.

The question of a uniform rate of postage for library bulletins was then discussed. It was stated that a committee of the A. L. A. was taking up the matter with the postal authorities; it was voted to appoint a committee of three members of the Massachusetts library club to coöperate with the American library association committee. The following committee was appointed: William P. Cutter of the Forbes library, Northampton; Frederick W. Faxon of the Boston Book Company; William C. Lane of Harvard university.

Following the business meeting Albert Garvin, warden of the Connecticut state prison at Wethersfield, spoke on the work of libraries in public institutions, including prisons and asylums. Mr Garvin said:

The state of Connecticut makes an annual appropriation of \$500 for the library in the state prison. The library contains 7000 v., 31 per cent of which is fiction. In each cell of the prison there is a library catalog and a slate on which names of books desired are written. The inmates of the prison read, during the past year, an average of 45 books each. The following books were especially popular: The life of Jerry McAuley, taken out 26 times in the past 18 months; The life of Helen Keller, taken out 22 times; The life of Lincoln,

taken out 19 times, and *The life of McKinley*, 17 times. Smith's "Training for citizenship" was read 33 times, and Roosevelt's "Hunting trips of a ranchman" 20 times. Lord's "Beacon lights of history" was read 71 times, while Parkman's works were untouched. Shakespeare was very popular, but no one wanted Shelley, Cooper, Coleridge or Mrs Browning.

At a meeting of the executive board, held at the close of the session, it was voted to send to the *Boston Herald* the following communication:

The executive board, representing the members of the Massachusetts library club, wishes to thank the *Boston Herald* for discontinuing the colored supplement to the Sunday edition of the *Herald*.

Colored supplements have long offended public taste, and the attitude of the *Herald* in doing away with such an objectionable feature is to be commended. It is hoped that other newspapers will follow this lead.

GERTRUDE E. FORREST, Recorder.

Montana—The fourth annual meeting of the Montana library association was held in Helena, Dec. 28-29, 1908, in connection with the State teachers' association.

The first session was opened by words of greeting from the presidents of the boards of trustees of the three Helena libraries—the public, the state historical and the law libraries. The speakers outlined the development, scope and ambitions of their respective institutions. It was interesting to note that the Historical society of this state was incorporated only two months after the meeting of the first legislature, which was held in Virginia City, December, 1864. Its first headquarters were at Virginia City. Subsequently they were moved to Deer Lodge and then to Helena, and in 1893 the property of the Historical society came under the control of the state. Dr C. A. Duniway, president of the University of Montana, gave a very delightful address on the "Value of a well-selected library." An informal reception was held at the close of the session.

The second meeting was held Tuesday morning in the office of Librarian Wil-

liam S. Bell of the State historical library. After a paper by Miss McCord there was a round table discussion, led by Miss Buckhouse. At the close of the meeting the members of the association and friends were entertained at a luncheon given by Hon. T. J. Walsh.

The last session was opened by a report of the A. L. A. meeting at Minnetonka, by Miss Sheriff, followed by a paper by Miss Collins on "Library advertising," and a round table, led by Miss Stoddard.

Perhaps the most noteworthy topics discussed at the round tables were the matters of Advertising the library, Increasing the circulation of nonfiction, and the plan of attempting to have the librarian of each city catalog in duplicate the principal newspaper of that city and send the duplicate catalog to the Historical library at Helena.

The officers elected for the following year were: President, Elizabeth L. Thomson, Anaconda; vice-president, William S. Bell, Helena; secretary-treasurer, Mabel Collins, Billings.

Tennessee—The fourth annual meeting of the Tennessee library association opened on Monday evening, January 11, with a beautiful musical and reception, given by the McDowell club at the Carnegie library. About 350 guests were present.

On Tuesday morning, Mayor Brown of Nashville welcomed the delegates. He spoke appreciatively of the work the library is doing for Nashville in a civic way.

Supt. Webber of the city schools gave the first address, pointing out what a library can do to aid the schools, stating that if the school taught a child but to read, the library could really educate him.

President Baskette of the Nashville library board responded to the greetings and told of the work the Tennessee library association is attempting to do.

Mrs E. G. Buford of Buford college gave a paper on "A liberal education."

She emphasized the library as a very important factor in liberal education. Reports on library work in colleges for young women showed that these special schools are taking an increased interest in library work as careers for women. Instruction along library lines is given in five schools in Tennessee.

The afternoon session was devoted to library legislation for Tennessee. Mrs W. D. Beard, for many years president of the Federation of women's clubs, made a strong plea for a library commission, pointing out the necessity of state sanction of the traveling library movement. A very considerable discussion by a number of those present followed. It was finally decided to ask the legislature to pass a law allowing any town in the state to tax itself for maintaining a library; a law for the usual library commission of the state, and a bill appropriating \$2500 for the state library to send out traveling libraries to the schools. A legislative committee was appointed.

On Tuesday evening a joint session of the library association and the public school officers' association was held. The keynote of the meeting was the cooperation of the two branches of educational work—library and school. President G. H. Baskette of Nashville opened the discussion, which became general among the teachers and the librarians present.

Story telling was the next theme discussed, from the two points of view, the story hour in the public schools and the story hour in the public library. A number of stories were told by various people to illustrate the points of the discussion.

The Wednesday morning meeting was a library round table. Cataloging and the library records were discussed. The subject of cataloging magazines and arranging indexes and contents was discussed by L. Lewis of Nashville library. He made a strong plea for uniformity in the publication of magazine indexes and contents. The following resolution was passed:

Be it resolved, That the Tennessee library association earnestly urges that the American

library association endeavor to induce publishers to adopt a uniform system of publishing the contents and indexes of magazines so as to facilitate the binding of volumes and avoid the placing of indexes in the wrong volumes, or the delay consequent upon holding volumes from the bindery until the proper indexes have been received.

Short reports concerning library movements in the state were given by representatives from Paris, Bell Buckle, Columbia and Sweetwater, and letters from seven other towns were read telling of their library progress.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: G. H. Baskette, Nashville, president; Charles Johnston, Memphis, first vice-president; Mary Skeffington, Nashville, second vice-president; Margaret Dunlap, Chattanooga, third vice-president; Mary Hannah Johnson, Nashville, secretary and treasurer.

Executive committee—Jennie Lauderdale, Nashville, chairman; Mrs W. D. Beard, Memphis; Margaret Dunlap, Chattanooga; Prof. Wharton S. Jones, Memphis.

Legislative committee—Mary Hannah Johnson, chairman; Mary R. Skeffington, Jennie E. Lauderdale, Charles D. Johnston, G. H. Baskette.

On Wednesday afternoon a joint meeting of the Tennessee library association and the Story tellers' league was held. It proved to be a most delightful and instructive occasion. Miss Will Allen Dromgoole, Tennessee's most distinguished writer, gave a talk on "The story writer and the library," after which she told some dinky stories most charmingly. Helen Wise gave an address on "The story tellers' league and the library," followed by a general discussion. Stories were told by Mrs Anderson, Miss Oemig, Prof. Jones and Mrs Farabough.

Many present this year pronounced the meeting the most helpful and interesting meeting the Tennessee library association had held. The association will hold its next meeting at Chattanooga in 1910, the time to be decided by the executive board.

MARY HANNAH JOHNSON, Sec'y.

Vermont—The Vermont library association and state library commission held a district meeting at the Cobleigh library, Lyndonville, Vt., January 28. Elizabeth Hills, one of the vice-presidents of the association, had charge of the meeting, and Mrs Kate Woods Barney of Springfield, first vice-president, presided in the absence of the president, Frances M. Pierce.

Librarians, trustees and educators were invited and the general subject was Work with schools. Rev. William Slade of Thetford spoke on the traveling library in the country school; Mrs Abba Doten Chamberlin of Pomfret on the preparation of books for school libraries; Delia I. Griffin of St Johnsbury on nature work with children; Mrs Mabel R. Hovey of St Johnsbury on children's work in the Springfield (Mass.) library; Mrs C. M. Winslow, Brandon, on the value of periodicals.

Interesting discussions followed the papers, and announcements were made of the new library law and the annual institute for librarians which is to be held in St Johnsbury this year.

Mrs Theodore N. Vail entertained the visitors at dinner in the parlors of the Universalist church. Tea was served at the library at 5 o'clock. About 50 were in attendance and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Illinois Library Association **Appointment of committees**

The members of the association are urged to communicate with any of the committee members in regard to either subject.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the Galesburg meeting of the Illinois library association, the president has appointed the following committees:

On library tax—H. A. Hutchinson, Oak Park; H. M. Pindell, Peoria; Reed Green, Cairo.

On state supervision of library extension—Andrew Russel, Jacksonville; J. Lyon Woodruff, East St Louis; W. F. Bundy, Centralia; J. H. Freeman, Aurora; Anne E. Felt, Galena.

News from the Field

East

John G. Shedd, general manager of Marshall Field & Co., Chicago, has given \$75,000 for a library building to Alstead, N. H., the town of his birth.

Mary E. Macomber, librarian of the Kellogg-Hubbard library, Montpelier, Vt., died February 11, of grip. She had been connected with the library for many years.

Rose Sherman has been appointed librarian of Radcliffe library, Cambridge, Mass., to succeed Caroline Farley, who has resigned the position. Miss Sherman is a graduate from Radcliffe college and later took the library course at Simmons college. She was librarian for a time at Peace Dale, R. I.

The annual report of George H. Tripp, librarian of Public library, New Bedford, Mass., states that the most important work of the library during the year was the introduction of books in the grammar grades of the public schools, 128 rooms being supplied with collections of books, from 40 to 50 in number, for circulation. The books are charged by the teachers and monthly reports are rendered through the office of the superintendent of the school to the librarian. The plan has been gratifyingly successful from both sides. The books have been sent into homes which the library had not been able to reach and many personal letters expressing gratification have been received. The figures of school circulation, 105,030 v., show the extent of the work. The librarian has given a course of talks on the work of the library and the normal schools in the Harrington school.

Central Atlantic

S. Augusta Smith, for some time librarian of the Public library of Mt Clair, N. J., died suddenly February 5 of apoplexy.

Frank B. Heckman, for many years connected with the Free library of Philadelphia, first with the Germantown

branch and later with the Wagner branch, died January 22, at 57 years of age.

Rebecca W. Wright, B. L. S., New York '05, has gone to the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh as assistant in the Lawrenceville branch.

The annual report of the Pennsylvania free circulating library for the blind gives 16,297 books circulated by the society, an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year. Dr Moon makes a plea for assistance in raising a publication fund of \$100,000.

The report of the Public library, Brooklyn, N. Y., states that 3,869,172 books were sent to the homes of readers, a considerable increase over any previous year; number of borrowers, 260,111. Only two branches have not made an appreciable gain in 1908 over 1907. The loss in one case was due to the library being closed for five weeks. During the year 74,771 v. were added to the library.

The report of the Public library of Newark, N. J., for 1908, gives 851,009 v. loaned for home use through 324 centers, an increase of 35 per cent over 1907, with 142,493 v. on the shelves. Gatherings for mutual and public welfare and improvement to the number of 662, with an attendance of 22,106, were held in the library building during 1908, and 15 exhibits with an attendance of 30,000. Through five branches 249,891 v. were lent, an increase of 187 per cent over last year. The increase at the main library was seven per cent. The cost of maintenance for the year was \$98,264.

The Public library of Newark, N. J., has arranged and opened a technical and scientific department on the second floor, in the room formerly used for a reading room. Books on science in all its bearings and the useful arts, together with scientific and professional periodicals and trade journals, are on the shelves. These, 6000 books and 500 periodicals, are both for reference and

lending every day in the week. Telephone service for reference questions and for borrowing books will be used. W. B. Morningstern will be in charge of the room, assisted by Mrs K. M. Howze.

The report of the Public library of Binghamton, N. Y., gives a full and interesting account of the successful work carried on between the library and the schools. Systematic instruction in the use of the library machinery has been given to groups of 30 in the upper grades of the school throughout the year. Noon-hour talks have been given at the factories by members of the library staff. A reading club is conducted by the library. The books issued for home use were 144,243 v.

McDevitt-Wilson Company, New York city, have removed their quarters to the New Hudson Terminal building, at 30 Church st., one of the newest and largest buildings in New York. McDevitt-Wilson Company probably has one of the handsomest stores in the entire building. It is several times as large as the old quarters on Barclay st., and much more convenient as to location and arrangement than the former quarters. The move is evidence of the growth of their business, which can only be interpreted as satisfactory service to their customers.

The report of the Buffalo (N. Y.) public library gives the circulation for last year as 1,401,839 v.; number of volumes in the library, 254,003; number of borrowers, 73,089, and 31,876 children drawing books from class room libraries in the public schools took 581,270 books for home use. The dictionary catalog has been completed. It is planned to make a dictionary catalog for the books in the reference room and also one for the circulating department of all the books which are circulated. This latter is intended to prevent ordinary borrowers from being disappointed when they ask for books which are in the catalog but which do not circulate at the present time. A

revised edition of the catalog of books in the class room libraries is shortly to be published. The total expenditure for the year was \$92,672.

The Brooklyn (N. Y.) public library is planning for 1909 a series of departmental libraries on subjects of particular local interest. The departments will include a teacher's library, a psychological library, a music library and a collection devoted to the civil war and its interests. It is probable that all these departments will be centralized for convenience in the Montague st. branch. The music library is already in shape and has been for some years in the Montague st. branch. The teachers' library will be collected from the various branch libraries, brought up to date and made one of the most reliable reference departments obtainable. The collection devoted to the civil war will be made possible by the recent purchase of the private library of the late F. S. Halliday. It contains about 4000 books and pamphlets and is considered one of the best of its kind in New York state. Both sides of the civil war are represented and many photographs and plates are included in it.

Central

Helen B. Gracie, New York '98-'99, has been appointed assistant in the order department, University of Illinois library.

Andrew Carnegie has given the Cincinnati public library \$100,000 with which to build three new library buildings.

D. Ashley Hooker, New York '06-7, has been engaged as assistant in the catalog department of the Cleveland public library.

Miranda B. Coon of Albion, Wis., who died February 5, left Milton (Wis.) college a farm worth \$15,000 for an endowment fund for the college library.

Ellen True, librarian of Wausau (Wis.) public library, has resigned her position on account of ill health. She has returned to her home in Omaha, Neb.

Lillian C. Kerr, Drexel, '06, formerly cataloger of the St Joseph (Mo.) public library, has been appointed reference librarian, to succeed Miss Perry, lately deceased.

The new public library building at Adrian, Mich., was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies February 5. It cost nearly \$30,000, of which \$27,500 was a Carnegie gift.

Augustana college at Rock Island, Ill., has received a gift of \$100,000 for a new library building. This building will form a memorial to the late F. C. A. Deukmann and his wife of Rock Island from their children.

Maud R. MacPherson, librarian of Watertown, Wis., for several years and a well-known Wisconsin library worker, has resigned her position to go to Hoquiam, Wash., to organize its library and supervise the proposed new building.

Mayor Carl C. Anderson of Fostoria, O., also congressman-elect, has announced that he will turn his salary of \$75 a month as mayor, and enough additional to make \$1,000 at the expiration of his mayoralty term, over to the public library.

The Public library of Fulton, Mo., is free to the public, but is supported by private donations. It was opened July 1, 1908. The circulation for the six months was 2467 v. Frances Watson is librarian and Mrs D. R. Kerr, president of the library board.

The fund for the proposed Harper Memorial library building at the University of Chicago has been completed. The friends of the university raised \$200,000, and to this John D. Rockefeller has agreed to add \$600,000. The building is to be placed on the south part of the main campus, facing the Midway, at the center of the notable group of buildings on that side of the university grounds.

The St Louis mercantile library association reports a total membership of 3799 and an attendance for the year

of 202,400 in 304 open days; a circulation of 133,970 v. The receipts for the year were \$61,808 and the expenditures \$56,772. During the year 445 new members were added and 524 memberships were lost. The circulation was 3060 less than for 1907, the loss being entirely in the fiction department. The issue in the other departments was larger than ever.

St Louis public library will move, in March, from its present quarters, where it has been for more than 10 years, to a seven-story building on the corner of Ninth and St Charles sts., separated only by an alley and Ninth st. from the building it now occupies. The lease is for two years, by which time it is believed the new central library building will be ready for use.

In the new quarters the delivery room will be on the ground floor. Besides this, the ground floor will have the open shelf rooms. The second floor will contain the portion of the circulating collection for which there is no room on the ground floor; the administrative offices also will be on the second floor. The third floor will be given up to the children's reading rooms and the collection of juvenile books for library use. The fourth floor will be the general reference room and the fifth floor the periodical room. The catalog rooms will be either on the sixth or seventh floor.

Three fast elevators and two stairways will supply access to the upper floors. The building is thoroughly equipped with fire-escapes. The library will pay for the new quarters, with light, heating and power furnished, a rental of \$17,000 a year. The library will move one department at a time so that the service will be uninterrupted.

South

Elizabeth Van Hoevenberg (Pratt, '94) has been appointed librarian of the Charleston (S. C.) museum.

The widow of the late Dr P. E. Hines of Raleigh, N. C., has given his medical library of 1000 v. to the State university.

Frances Nimmo Green has been elected director of the Public library at Birmingham, Ala. The library will be reorganized and opened for use by July 1.

A bill providing for state supervision of library extension is before the legislature of North Carolina, and is being supported by the leading newspapers of the state.

Through the influence of Booker T. Washington, Andrew Carnegie has agreed to pay the full amount for the erection of a library building at Mound Bayou, Miss. The site has already been secured and an early erection of the building will follow.

The annual report of the Cossitt library, Memphis, Tenn., shows a total issue for the year of 146,605 v., 65 per cent of which was fiction; volumes on the shelves, 37,415. Collections of books were lent to the schools, the Y. M. C. A., Sunday schools and several homes for indigent people.

The annual report of the Rosenberg library of Galveston, Tex., gives the circulation for 1908 as 66,014 v.; borrowers, 7379; books on the shelves, 28,603, exclusive of public documents and the books in the colored branch. Several exhibits were held in the library during the year. The lecture course was continued during 1908 with increased interest and success.

Pacific coast

The Pacific university, Forest Grove, Ore., has been pledged \$10,000 for a library by the Misses Failing of Portland, on condition that \$20,000 additional is subscribed.

The Public library of Alameda, Cal., has just opened a smoking room for the public. This new department will be opened every evening between six and nine o'clock.

The Public library of Tacoma, Wash., has instituted a department in which will be kept for public reference, copies of all the bills passed by the state legislature of Washington.

Foreign

The report of the Public library of Victoria, Australia, gives the accessions as 174,817 v.; 86 traveling libraries sent out, distributed 9367 v.

John Ballinger, for many years the efficient librarian of the Cardiff public libraries, was the recipient on Dec. 30, 1908, of a complimentary meeting of the officials of the Cardiff Corporation and the staff of the libraries.

It was the occasion of saying good-by to Mr Ballinger prior to his going to Aberystwyth to assume his new position as chief librarian of the Welsh national library. A silver tea and coffee service, appropriately engraved, was presented to Mr Ballinger by the hosts of the evening "as a tribute of their esteem and affection."

Interesting Things in Print

D. Van Nostrand Company has just issued a List of books on radio-telegraphy and radio-telephony, embracing all books in English on this important subject. The list is sent free on request.

The Massachusetts library club, at its recent meeting, passed a resolution to send a vote of thanks to the Boston *Herald*, commending the abolishment of the colored supplement formerly issued with the Sunday *Herald*.

The Buffalo public library has issued a catalog of the books in German which were recently given to the library by *Deutschen Jungmänner-Gesellschaft*. The cost of the catalog was met by the association.

The Public library of Mankato, Minn., has issued some Sunday school helps for both children and teachers. The list includes 20 entries of helpful and interesting material. Other lists issued by this library are, Some books that high school boys like and Some books that high school girls like.

In the travel field this year *The Century* will publish a series of papers, by Robert Haven Schauffler, on impressions

of and experiences in Dantzic, Berlin, Potsdam, Brunswick, Leipsic, Meisser, Dresden, Hildesheim, and other German cities—the many illustrations to be the work of German artists.

A promising new feature of *St Nicholas* the coming year will be a two-page department to be called "The Cozy Cooking Club," conducted by Charlotte Brewster Jordan. The recipes will be given in easy rhyme, with, of course, a brief prose list of ingredients; and will cover simple dainties specially appropriate to the season. Each month of the year will have its own menu.

For sale—By the Public library of Port Huron, Mich., a magazine rack. Particulars will be sent on application to the library.

A New Arcadia

For ten years the department of Nature and Science in *St Nicholas* has been under the direction of Edward F. Bigelow, of Stamford, Conn., an important educational feature of that magazine. Its aim has been unerring accuracy in portraying nature from the standpoint of the child; and to this end the editor has had the coöperation of nearly all the best naturalists, scientists and nature artists in the country.

Now Nature and Science is to have a complete working outfit covering more than half an acre of ground at Stamford, Conn. This outfit and its arrangement originated wholly with a wealthy philanthropist and lover of children, who has watched for some time "on the quiet" the work of the department, studied the correspondence with the children—some of them in foreign countries—investigated all the requirements, and without the suggestion of anyone other than his architect, is to supply a series of convenient, portable buildings in which the various departments of the work will be carried on systematically.

Book Notes

Christ legends, Lagelöf. Henry Holt & Co.

A beautiful gift book, full of interesting stories. The binding is white and gold, which is too delicate for library service, but the contents are most desirable for the children's room.

Uncle Sam's business, Marriott. \$1.25. Harpers.

Here is a book that contains the gist of the administration of the United States government told in a most interesting way. A good book for school libraries and for young people's rooms. It is probable that 80 per cent of the voters do not have the information this book gives.

Roy and Ray in Canada, Plummer. \$1.75 net. Henry Holt & Co.

Written along the same line as Roy and Ray in Mexico, by the director of Pratt institute library school. It contains much general information about the people and places in Canada, given in a personal, conversational style, calculated to hide the fact that one is being instructed.

Friendship village, Gale. \$1.50. Macmillan.

This little book has been called the Cranford of the West. It lacks the simplicity and distinction of its English prototype, but its readers make the acquaintance of a group of very human and likable people, upon whose community ways the telephone and other modern improvements have made curious inroads.

Live dolls' play days, Gates. \$1.25. Bobbs-Merrill Co.

Mrs Josephine Scribner Gates has already won the hearts of children and those who are interested in them by her doll stories. This new volume is above her usual high average of interest and will be gladly welcomed by the children. The solution of the Teddy Bear problem is most amusing and certainly unique. The illustrations, by Virginia Keep, add much to the story.

How to appreciate prints; Weitenkamp. \$1.50 net. Moffat, Yard & Co.

Mr Weitenkamp, as curator of the Print department of the New York public library, has contributed largely to the general knowledge of prints by the very valuable exhibits he has presented in that library from time to time, for years. His book is one that will serve well the purposes of study clubs. As its name indicates, it is an attempt to develop appreciation, the power to see what the artist tried to show and to give some

knowledge of how etchings are made, not technically, but artistically. An index of considerable fullness adds to the value of the work.

Chapters of opera, Krehbiel. \$3.50 net. Henry Holt & Co.

Librarians who have used the "Annotated bibliography of music" will recognize the value of a volume of history of the development of grand opera in the United States by Mr Krehbiel. It deals with the progress of the past 20 years, giving the repertoire for each season, vivid accounts of notable performances, estimates of operas, conductors and singers, with numerous anecdotes in connection with them. Portraits of many in character costumes are given.

Catalog of books in children's department of Carnegie library of Pittsburgh. \$1 net, postpaid.

The Carnegie library of Pittsburgh has issued its new Catalog of books in the children's department of the library.

The catalog includes the titles of 2500 carefully selected books suitable for children and is based on 10 years of study and observation of children's needs and wishes. Many experts on various subjects have been consulted. The catalog is fully annotated for the use of children, and is one of the most valuable pieces of work that has been sent out recently.

The main portion of the catalog is arranged alphabetically, under the names of the authors. No effort has been spared to make it both useful and convenient. To increase its usefulness an alphabetical list of titles and a very full subject index have been added. The whole forms a volume of 604 pages.

The man and the books. Privately printed.

Charles K. Lush, author of "The federal judge," "The autocrats," etc., a well-known newspaper man of Chicago and Milwaukee, now a resident of Madison, Wis., has had printed an address on "The man and the books, books and the man," for distribution. It is the résumé of an address by a well-known Wisconsin jurist, Judge Anthony Donavon. It is the recital of how a blacksmith's apprentice, which Judge Donavon was in his youth, was awakened to the value of education and a love for books and learning, from a single lecture on the subject which he heard; how, buying book by book, he had added to his library until he owned 2500 v., the best works of philosophers, historians, orators and poets. Mr Lush says it is a story worth telling; a story so marked with the impress of counsel and truth as to be exceptionally capable of being an inspiration to men and women.

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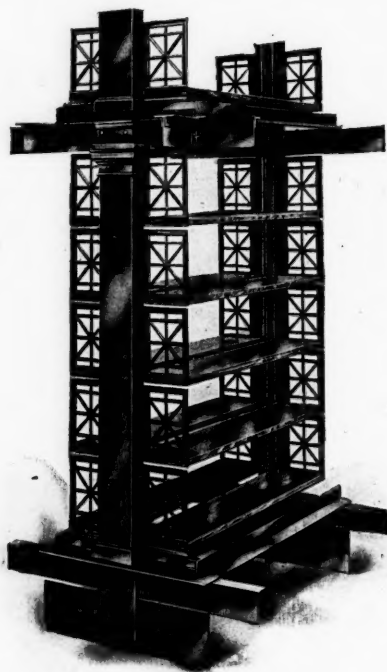
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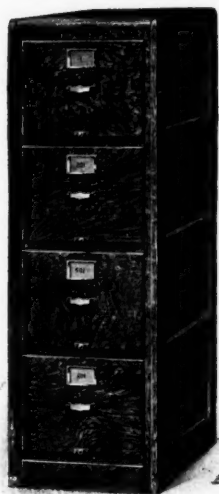
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